




Inside

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BARBARIAN FLED THE NWA

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Wrestling

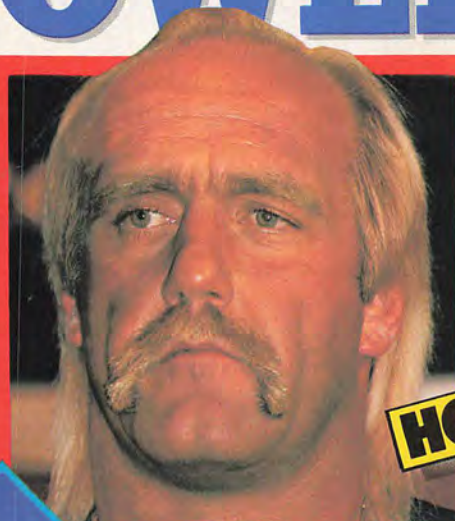
FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

MEGAPOWERS

Preview
&
Analysis



SAVAGE



HOGAN

VS.



DiBIASE



ANDRE

MEGABUCKS

A Championship Embarrassment:
THE FOUR HORSEMEN HAVE DESTROYED RIC FLAIR!
ONE ON ONE: MICHAEL HAYES VS. BUDDY ROBERTS



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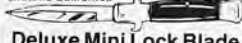
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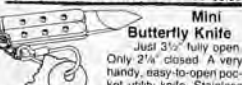
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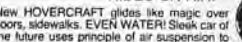
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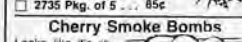
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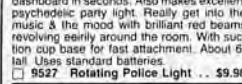
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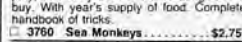
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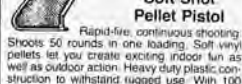
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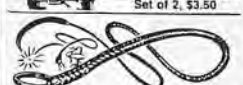
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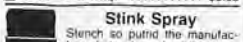
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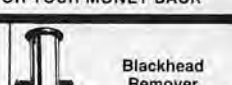
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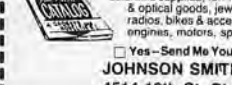
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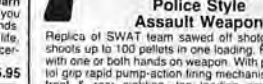
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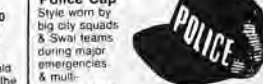
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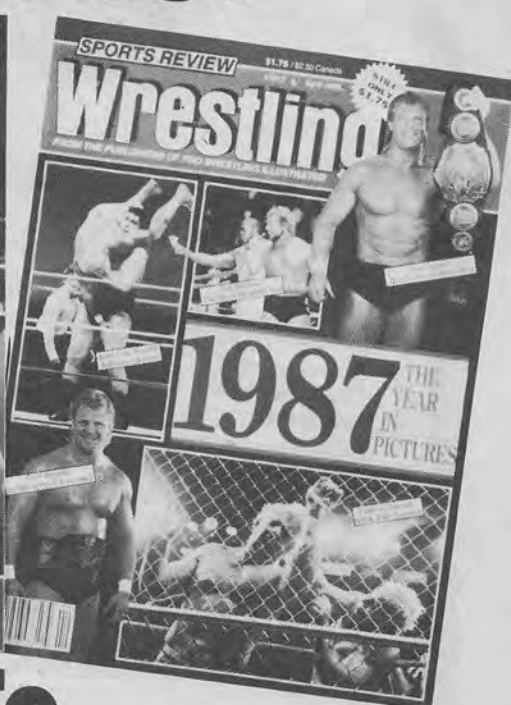
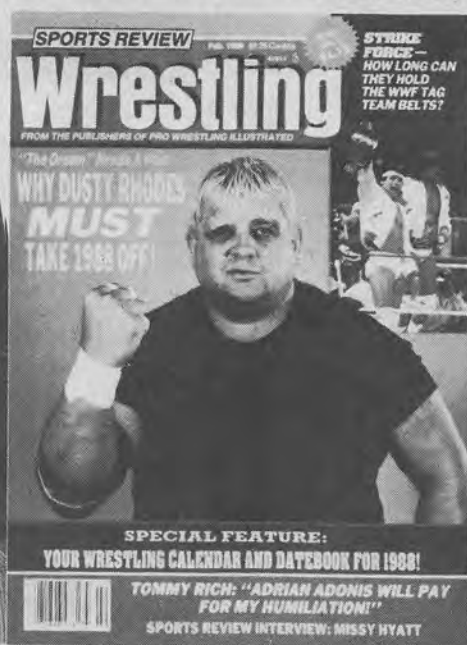
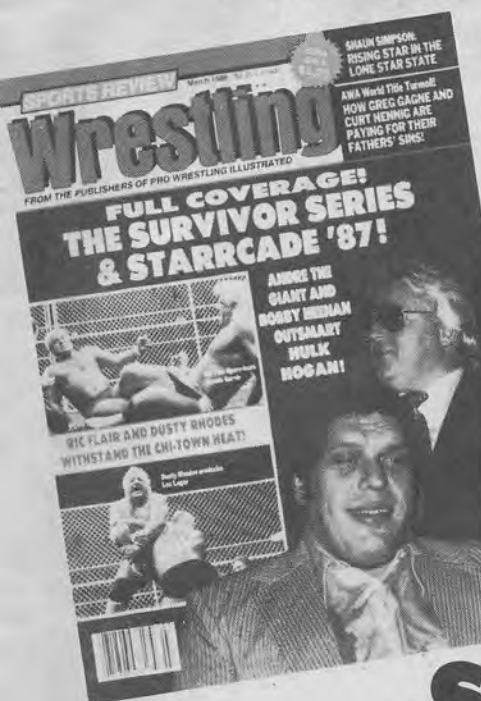
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INSIDE

Wrestling

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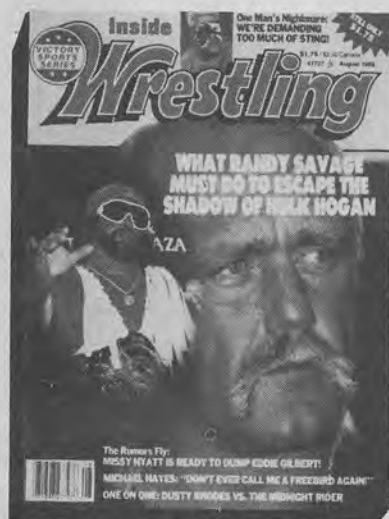
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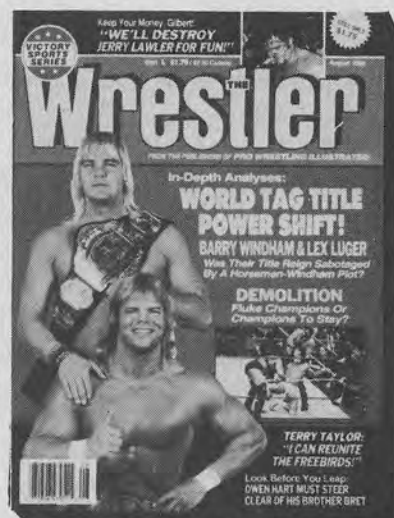
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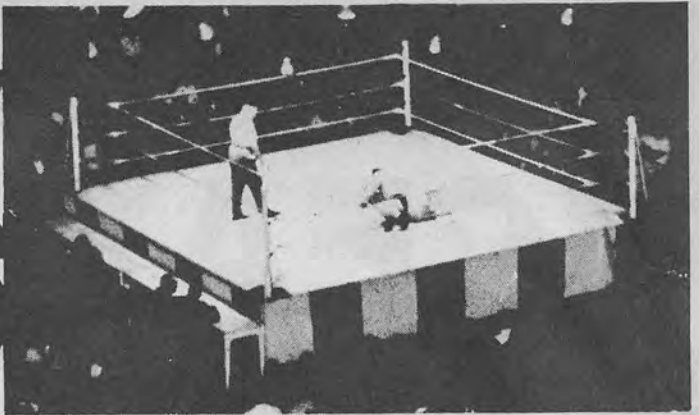
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HORSEMEN HATRED

I used to be a big fan of The Four Horsemen. They have always been an elite group of wrestlers committed to mat excellence. I never minded their use of rulebreaking techniques, just as I have never minded when others have broken a few rules to emerge victorious. Sometimes winning just takes precedent.

The way they have excelled in the ring is something of which they can be very proud. Holding all the major NWA belts is something of which they can be very proud. Instilling fear in the hearts of wrestlers everywhere is something of which they can be very proud.

But beating up a street-clothed Lex Luger outside the James L. Knight Center in Miami is a despicable act of cowardice and violence that even I—a definite Horsemen fan—cannot and will not tolerate!

Wrestling is a sport of honor. The competition is meant to be contained within the confines of the ring. The Horsemen have no need to attack Luger in a parking lot when they can beat him fair and square in the ring. And *that's* the part that really got my goat: The Horsemen don't lose. So why worry? Why lower yourself to that level? Why give credence to all those jerks who try to malign the mighty foursome?

Can the blame fall on newcomer Barry Windham? Is his aggression toward his ex-partner *that* overpowering that it controls his actions? Was the whole thing his idea, a sadistic attempt to impress his new friends? If so, I hope it didn't work.

I'm looking for the Horsemen to



Barry Windham slams Lex Luger. Although reader Gregory Coming considers himself a big Horsemen fan, he was shocked at the way they attacked Luger on national TV.

mold Windham into a real member of their brotherhood. Sadism and aggression, yes! But not when it's uncontrolled. Barry will make a fine addition to the Horsemen once he learns that the style, elegance, and class that has always been a Four Horsemen trademark carries over into *every* aspect of their lives.

GREGORY CORNING
Los Angeles

FINAL PROOF!

You guys really put your feet in your mouths this time. You consistently claimed that Dusty Rhodes was The Midnight Rider. You even ran a cover story in the July 1988 issue of your sister publication, *Sports Review Wrestling* ("Proof: Dusty Rhodes Is The Midnight Rider!"). I have to admit, you almost had me convinced.

But then, Dusty came to you and went "One On One" with the Rider himself on the telephone (*Inside Wrestling*, August 1988). What more proof do you need that Dusty and the Rider are not one and the same? Get off Rhodes' back, would you?

If you're going to resort to that type of yellow journalism, please write your smut about that traitor Barry Windham, and not a great champion—the *people's* champion—like Dusty.

And to you, Big Dust, I'm sorry I ever doubted you. These guys will do *anything* to sell magazines!

JEFF COHEN
Indianapolis

COME BACK, STEAMBOAT

I've watched all types of promotions, such as the NWA, AWA, WWF, and World Class, for many years now. I have to say that the finest wrestler I have ever seen is Rick Steamboat. I'm greatly discouraged that the bogus politics of the WWF wasted Rick's talent, his athletic physique, and, above all, his time.

Rick should now contemplate a comeback in the federation where he got his start, the NWA. He's already won all the titles that the NWA has to offer, except the World title. Rick knows Ric Flair well; they have had



Rick Steamboat headlocks Ric Flair during a 1978 bout. Some of Steamboat's greatest matches were in the NWA, and reader Nick Marrugo thinks Steamboat should return there.

many grueling matches together. I personally think Steamboat could take his title. What better man to fight against the dreaded Four Horsemen? With Lex Luger, Dusty, Sting, and Magnum T.A. all targeting the Horsemen, Flair and his cronies are sure to fall.

I urge Rick Steamboat to come back to a federation that loves him. Come back to the NWA, Rick!

NICK MARRUGO
Miami

INDEPENDENT'S DAY!

I attend an average of one independent promotion card a month and find it very exciting, as well as a great value. For example, I recently attended a card that included Misty Blue vs. Linda Dallas, Johnny Rodz vs. Abdullah the Butcher, and Sgt. Slaughter vs. The Russian Assassin. Not only was it great wrestling, but I sat in the fourth row. The ticket cost only \$10! You just
(Continued on page 48)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

This will never happen, so I don't even know why I'm wasting my time. What the heck. It's the squeaky wheel that gets oiled, so I'm going to do a little squeaking.

We all know about wrestling's unwritten law about matching scientific wrestlers against scientific wrestlers and rulebreakers against rulebreakers. Beyond the fact that this absurd "rule" deprives deserving wrestlers of title shots, it also deprives the fans of some very intriguing matchups.

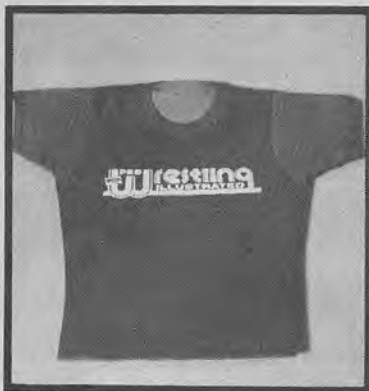
Ask federation officials about the policy and they'll deny that it exists. The gall! All one has to do is look at a list of results for any given week and they can see for themselves. What really bothers me is the thinking that goes behind the application of such a policy. What wrestling officials, in their infinite wisdom, are telling us is that we would not plunk down money to see a match unless the participants were of opposite wrestling philosophies.

Every arena is full for every match, so the officials must know what they are talking about! We all know that's not true, but take a suggestion from an outsider? Well, let's give it a try:

With Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty having taken their flying act to the WWF, how about making a match between The Midnight Rockers and The British Bulldogs? When you think about it, what does the WWF have to lose? If the fans are bored, they'll go to the concession stand and buy a WWF poster or T-shirt. But more than likely, the fans will thrill to a dazzling exhibition of wrestling virtuosity.

Maybe even more dazzling than Matilda running after Bobby Heenan.

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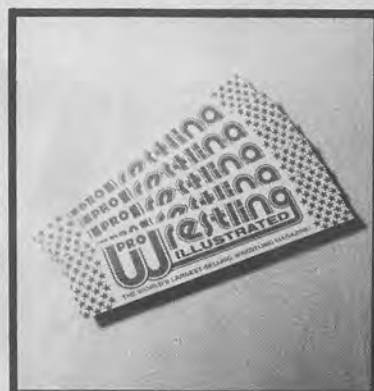
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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

MINUTES BEFORE THIS column was due, word came from Greensboro, North Carolina, that the WWF would hold its first-ever card at the Greensboro Coliseum on August 7 with a main event of (sound the trumpets!) Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan.

For those who believe everything the WWF says, this is the fourth time Andre and Hogan have met in one-on-one competition (actually, their rivalry dates back to the early 1980s), so this is a significant match. Especially when one considers that Andre-Hogan III at WrestleMania IV settled nothing. Of course, it's not as significant as their previous battles because neither man holds a title.

The real importance of this match—and, in fact, the entire card—is that the WWF has finally broken into the Greensboro Coliseum, forever the property of the NWA. The Coliseum was the home of Starrcade '83, Crockett Cup '88, two NWA World title changes, seven World tag title changes, and two TV title changes—in this decade alone! The NWA draws some of its largest crowds at the Coliseum. And Greensboro is only 89 miles away from Charlotte, North Carolina, home of Jim Crockett Promotions.

This is a full-scale invasion, folks, and it shouldn't be taken lightly. The NWA pushing the WWF out of the Nassau Coliseum for six months was big news, but they'd have to run a show at Madison Square Garden to match this. Crockett Promotions has held cards approximately once a month for the past 25 years in the 16,000-seat Coliseum. According to Coliseum Public Relations manager Bailey Hobgood, the NWA draws between 5,000 and 8,000

(Continued on page 52)



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THERE'S NO DENYING it. We live in a world of change. Bruce Springsteen's marriage with Julianne Phillips is falling apart, eight years of Ronald Reagan will soon give way to an administration led by either George Bush or Michael Dukakis, and the NWA roster is almost unrecognizable from what it was three months ago: Warlord and Barbarian have gone to the WWF, Barry Windham is now a member of The Four Horsemen, and The Rock 'n' Roll Express have returned to NWA rings from the AWA.

Yet, through the changes, the even temperament of J.J. Dillon remains the same.

"The secret of my success," Dillon explained during my recent trip to Atlanta for a *World Championship Wrestling* taping at the studios of WTBS, "is my steady and even hand through times of turmoil."



J.J. Dillon

Success is a matter of opinion, and there are many who would view Dillon's accomplishments as cheaply won laurels at best. But the plain truth speaks for itself: the executive director of The Four Horsemen has led his charges to the four top belts in the NWA. That's not shabby by any definition of the word.

"There's so much criticism of me," Dillon said, "but the fact of the matter remains that no other manager in the history of the sport has accomplished what I have accomplished. Four men, four titles. The NWA World title, the World tag team belts, and the U.S. belt. Show me one other manager *anywhere* in the history of the sport who has matched that kind of record. You can't, because it hasn't been done before."

"Managers in wrestling today are looking for quick results," Dillon continued. "Take Paul E. Dangerously, for example. He's flying all over the map, signing wrestlers, getting rid of wrestlers, changing his stable around. You can't succeed that way. There's no continuity. What's he managing? He's managing to develop confusion and instability in his own stable. That's not good for the long haul."

I asked Dillon about the instability within the Horsemen—particularly the Windham-Lex Luger situation.

"That's *precisely* what I'm talking about. People who say that Luger leaving the Horsemen and Windham join-

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

ing indicates we're not a stable entity are totally wrong. The fact of the matter is that those changes reflect *absolute* stability. Our stability is based on wrestling excellence, competitive Horseman attitude, and my own credentials for success. Luger couldn't live up to those credentials, so he was gone; Windham matches those credentials, so he's in. Luger himself may not be a stable individual—and I can assure you he isn't, because he certainly isn't capable of taking management direction properly—but the Horsemen

as a unit remain more stable than ever."

Then I questioned Dillon regarding the problems Paul Jones has had in his own stable—mainly, the departure of The Powers of Pain from the NWA in favor of the WWF.

"I really don't want to comment very much on Jones or the Powers," Dillon said cautiously, "but I will say this. Look at Paul Jones and look at J.J. Dillon. Compare and contrast us. If you undertake an intelligent analysis, you'll recognize that our management styles are vastly different. Our executive capabilities and our methods of delegating authority are worlds apart. I'm not saying Paul is wrong and I am right, but our styles are different. I'm sorry to see him lose such a large portion of his stable."

Dillon took a thoughtful deep breath before continuing.

"It's slow and steady that wins the race. That's why Jim Cornette has been so successful over the years. He's stuck with one team, he made a change when a change had to be made in terms of replacing Dennis Condrey with Stan Lane, but his overall management philosophy has remained unchanged. Where Jim runs into trouble is with his volatile personality. You'll notice that whenever Cornette becomes personally involved in a feud, and that happens far too many times than it should, his team runs into serious trouble."

"That's where I draw a line. I make a concerted effort *not* to become personally involved. In my position as executive director of the Horsemen, I have to look at the ledger and approach the sport as a series of daily business decisions. Look at it this way: The successful investment banker on Wall Street doesn't try to strike it rich quickly, he builds slow and steady, taking a percentage point profit here, and a percentage point there. While other get-rich-quick schemes are collapsing, the slow and steady man is quietly building a fortune."

Slow and steady, the secret of J.J. Dillon's success. If his Horsemen continue to hold the four top NWA belts over the next few months, I wouldn't be surprised to see Dillon make a slow and steady drive for 1988's Manager of the Year honors. □

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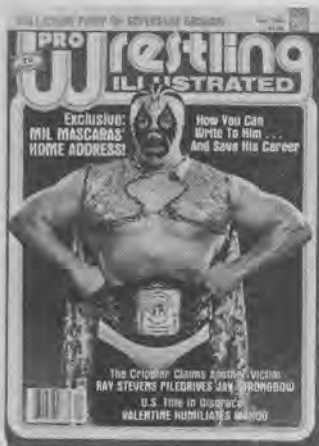
June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel, Adonis & Ventura, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo, Steamboat & Rich, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler, Ric Flair, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera, Rick Steamboat, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski, Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.



APRIL 1983

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham, Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton, Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff, Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko, Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

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August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen, Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack, Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana, Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A., Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan vs. Piper, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura, Great American Bash, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.



APRIL 1986

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair, Wendi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat, Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich, Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy, R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes, Randy Savage, Luger vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd, Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Luger, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll, British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash, Great American Bash, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds, Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth, UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger, Dusty & Nikita, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams, Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A., Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious, Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase, Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele, Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors, Ted DiBiase, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting, Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard, Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig, Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez, Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

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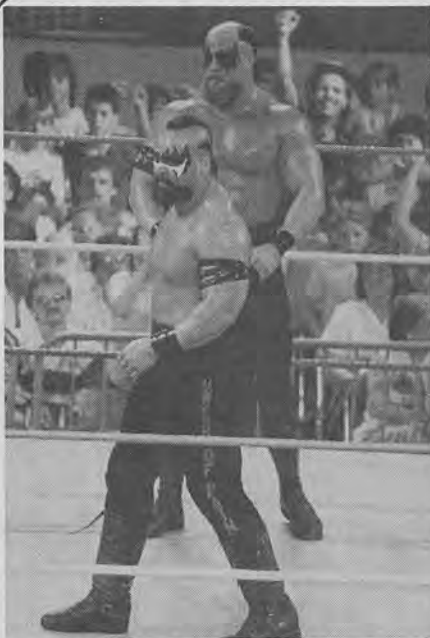
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THE POWERS OF PAIN

Things are beginning to heat up in the WWF tag team division with the arrival of **The Warlord** and **The Barbarian**, better known as **The Powers of Pain**. Even more shocking than their leaving the NWA and the stable of **Paul Jones** (see page 29) is their sudden change in attitude and ring style. During their initial appearances in the federation, they've been introduced by **Tito Santana**, one-half of **Strike Force**, as a new threat to the WWF World tag team championship currently held by **Demolition**.

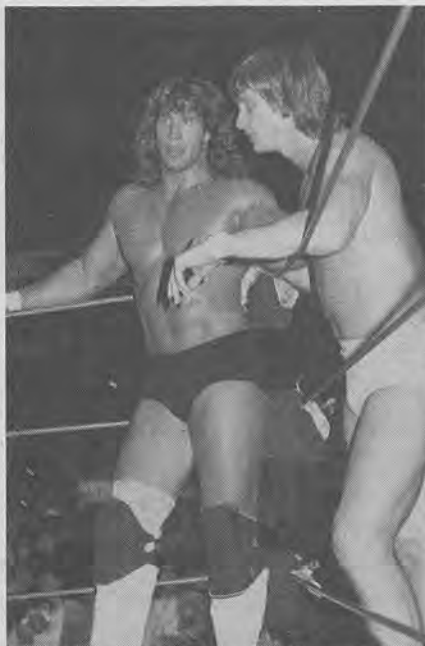
"Tito is outraged by **Ax**, **Smash**, and **Mr. Fuji**," said a WWF source. "In his mind, they didn't deserve to win the tag belts at **WrestleMania IV**. And, more recently, they ganged up on **Rick Martel**, putting him out of action with a concussion. I don't know how Warlord and Barbarian have come to know Santana, but Tito seems committed to seeing the Powers win the belts."

The Powers of Pain have wasted no time in securing matches with the titleholders. The WWF newcomers have al-

ready received several non-title bouts against **Demolition** across the country, as they've been allowed to substitute for **Strike Force** due to **Martel's** injury. Reportedly, Mr. Fuji may file a grievance against Warlord, Barbarian, and Santana, as well as WWF officials.

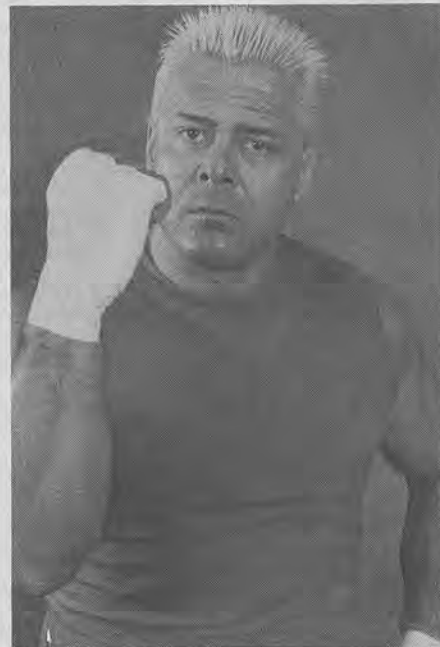
"Fuji is upset because he doesn't think that Warlord and Barbarian have been around long enough to deserve even one match against **Demolition**," said the source. Actually, Fuji is probably more concerned with the fact that the Powers are the only team in the WWF with the awesome size and power needed to defeat **Ax** and **Smash**.

The World Class tag team title has been held up following the results of a match pitting former champs **Kevin** and **Kerry Von Erich** against **Terry**



KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH

Taylor and **Iceman Parsons** on June 10 in Ft. Worth. The teams battled to a double-disqualification for fighting outside the ring. According to the bylaws of the World Class Wrestling Association, titles can change hands on a disqualification, and title vacancies



RONNIE GARVIN

can be declared on double-DQ decisions on the basis of officials' discretion.

"I can't believe they're taking the titles from us on such a technicality," Kevin complained after the decision was announced. "That match should have been ruled a double-countout. How can you be disqualified when you've been counted out? They can strip us of the title, but I know the fans still consider us the champions."

Former NWA World champion **Ronnie Garvin** has been acting very strangely lately. He's shown up late—or not at all—for several important matches where he was supposed to team with his brother, "**Gorgeous**" **Jim Garvin**. Though Jimmy has been using substitute partners for his brother, Ronnie keeps insisting there is no problem. "I just botched up some travel connections," said Ronnie. "People keep trying to read too much into this. It's no big deal, really."

Jimmy doesn't seem to agree. "There's something on Ronnie's

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

mind," he insists. "He says that everything is fine, but he's been absent for some really crucial matches against **Kevin Sullivan** and his **Varsity Club**. I've got to get to the bottom of all this."

Johnny Smith won the British Commonwealth title from **Chris Benoit** June 24 in Calgary. Smith and Benoit were once one of Stampede's most popular teams, but the partnership ended when Smith joined rule-breaking manager **Abdul Wazel**. Benoit was about to come off the ropes



JOHNNY SMITH

with an elbowsmash when Smith caught, suplexed, and pinned him, ending Benoit's title reign of more than three months. Also in Stampede, **Jason the Terrible** has resumed his vicious feud with "**Strangler**" **Steve DiSalvo**.

The Continental area has scheduled a tournament on August 22 in Birmingham, Alabama, to determine a

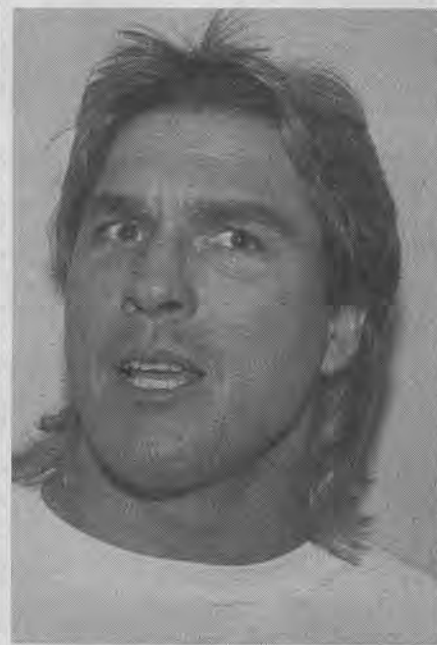
new heavyweight champion. Also in Continental, **Tom Prichard** has chosen **Bambi** as his valet for his battles against **Tony Anthony** and his second, **Lady Mystic** . . . Former friends **Al Madril** and **Steve Doll** are feuding in the Pacific Northwest area . . . **Chris Adams** won the Southern Championship Wrestling title on June 25 in Columbus, Georgia. Adams was the victor of a one-night tourney for the belt, defeating veteran **Buck Robley** in the final match.

King Tonga, also known as **Haku** of **The Islanders**, has been named by **Bobby Heenan** to replace **Harley Race** as the "King" of the WWF. Race was forced out of action after undergoing abdominal surgery. Tonga was "coronated" at a ceremony on June 21 in Glens Falls, New York.

Massive **Max Pain** regained the CWA title from his former manager, **Brickhouse Brown**, on June 27 in Memphis. Brown was seconded for this



MAX PAIN



TERRY TAYLOR

match by **Brother Ernest Angel**, but the strategy backfired as the "spiritual leader" accidentally threw powder into Brown's face, making him an easy pin victim for Pain. Brown and Angel were involved in a shoving match after the bout, and a war between the two is likely. On the same card, **Scott Steiner** and **Billy Travis** won the CWA tag team championship from **Don Bass** and **Gary Young**, and AWA World champion **Jerry Lawler** battled to an exciting double-countout with World Class champion **Kerry Von Erich** in a belt vs. belt match. Legendary Japanese star **Antonio Inoki** was in attendance at the event, fueling rumors of an impending U.S. tour.

Jos LeDuc is now in the WWF . . . **Jimmy Jack Funk** is currently competing in the World Class area . . . **Cousin Luke** is in the AWA . . . **Terry Taylor** has reached agreement on a contract with the WWF. He was scheduled to meet **Lanny Poffo** on July 25 in New York's Madison Square Garden.

That's all for now, fans! See you at the matches! □

THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner



Pedro Morales nails Don Leo Jonathan during their 1973 encounter in New York's Madison Square Garden. Eddie Ellner is conducting a contest to determine the greatest moment ever in wrestling history—and this is his personal choice.

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

IT'S CONTEST TIME! For a prize package consisting of one *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* T-shirt, one *PWI* "skyflyer," and three randomly chosen back issues of *Inside Wrestling*—in addition to the everlasting thrill of having your name appear in this column—I want you to select the greatest moment in wrestling history. What could be simpler?

Ask yourself: during what match did the earth tremble and the stars shift? After what match

did fans file from the arena and mutter to each other, "Y'know, things are different now." I want the wrestling equivalent to the splitting of the atom. The Big Bang of Grappling. There are no rules to this contest. You may go back 100 years, 1,000 years, 100,000 years, before the invention of the turnbuckle, if you like. Everyone is eligible, even if your third cousin twice removed is an employee of *Inside Wrestling*.

There are, however, a few gentle guidelines. I would prefer (although it is not required) that you attended—or at least have seen films of—the match you are going to enter. Of course, if you have strong feelings that the 1972 Bruno Sammartino vs. Pedro Mo-

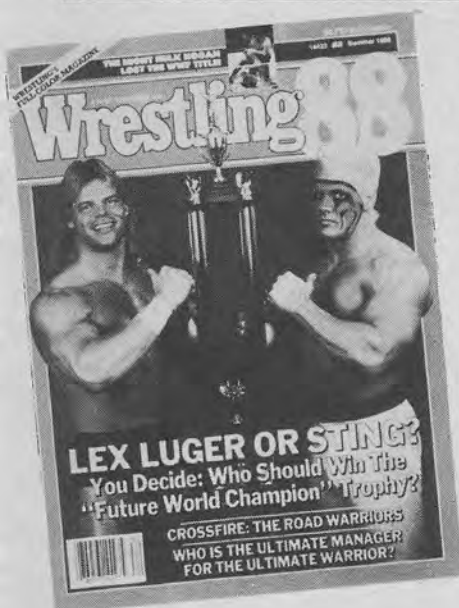
rales WWF title match at Shea Stadium in New York was the greatest ever, but you were nary a twinkle in your parents' eyes, I won't hold it against you. And you won't be penalized if it was decided that Nome, Alaska, was the last decent place on earth to raise a family, and you've grown up on a steady diet of sea otters vs. polar bears.

I am the sole judge, jury, and executioner of all entries, the final and absolute arbiter of this contest. What I say goes. But I encourage devotees of Dusty Rhodes, Hulk Hogan, Barry Windham, or The Rock n' Roll Express not to lose heart. Yes, it's true that I liken your favorites to a nest

(Continued on page 56)

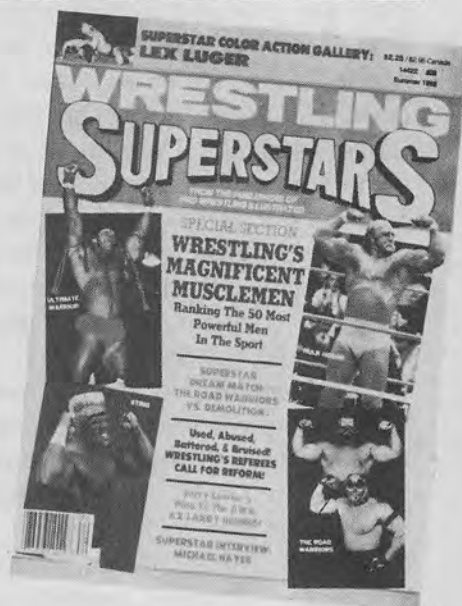
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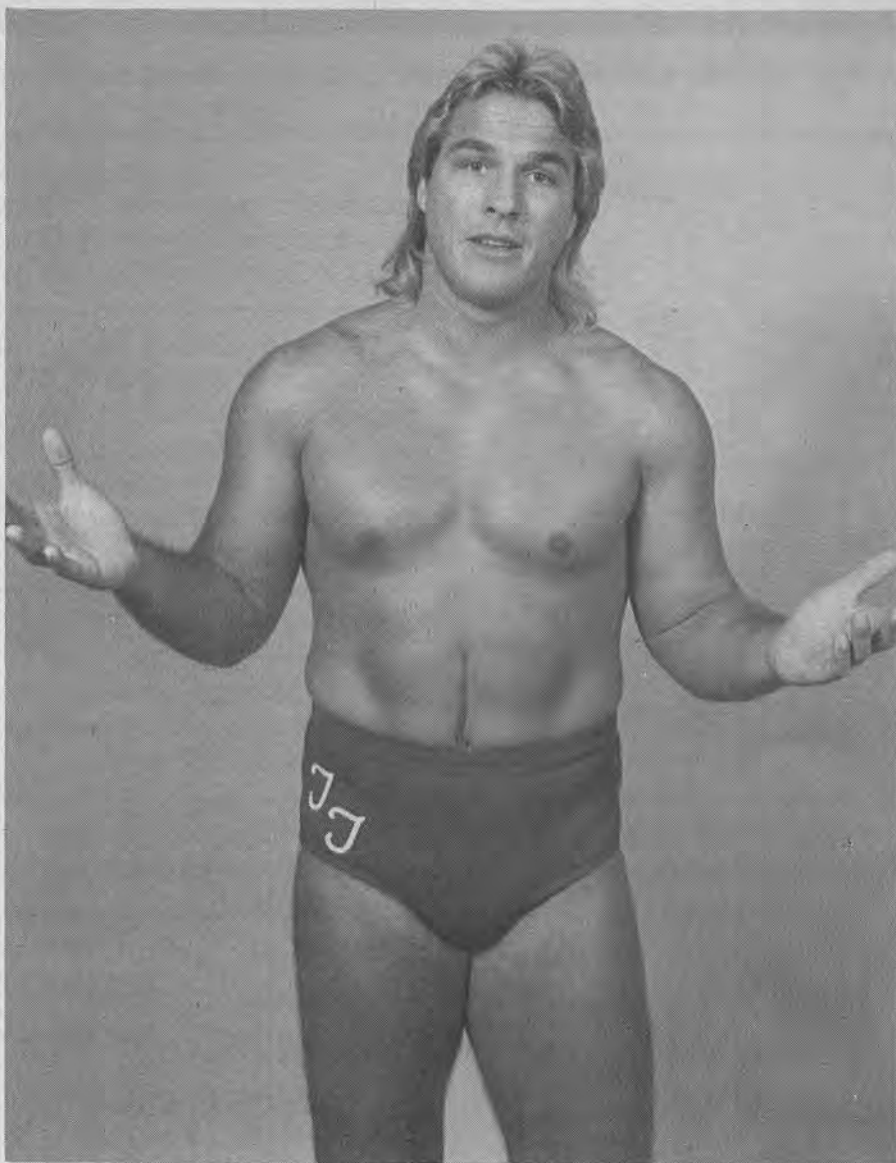
A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

THE STRANGE SAGA of Terry Taylor continues. It was reported in this space not too long ago that Taylor had lost his marbles. He imagined himself champion of the UWF months after that sad federation folded its chairs for good. He spoke of battling Jerry Lawler and Bill Dundee at the same time with one hand tied behind his back. He rambled incessantly, his monologues becoming increasingly difficult to comprehend. A common fear was that the injuries Taylor suffered in a car accident had inflicted permanent and irreversible psychological damage. After losing badly several times to Lawler, some friends encouraged him to retire.

Instead, Taylor moved to the World Class area and promptly relieved Matt Borne of his Texas title. So much for friends' advice. After his victory, Taylor refused interviews and issued the following statement: "The press has maligned me for the last time. Those of you who have written me off in the past can't possibly have anything to say now. You can all go to hell, as far as I'm concerned."

Taylor's indictment of the media is not without justifiable cause. During his blue period in the UWF, a time during which his personality shifted from matinee idol to rulebreaker extraordinaire, Taylor was mercilessly hounded by reporters. They'd confront him at home, in restaurants, in movie theaters, desperate for the latest from wrestling's prettiest bad boy. To his credit, Taylor never avoided the attention; not a single



Lately, Terry Taylor's career has been going in a lot of directions. Before his move to the WWF, he justified all his actions to Liz Hunter.

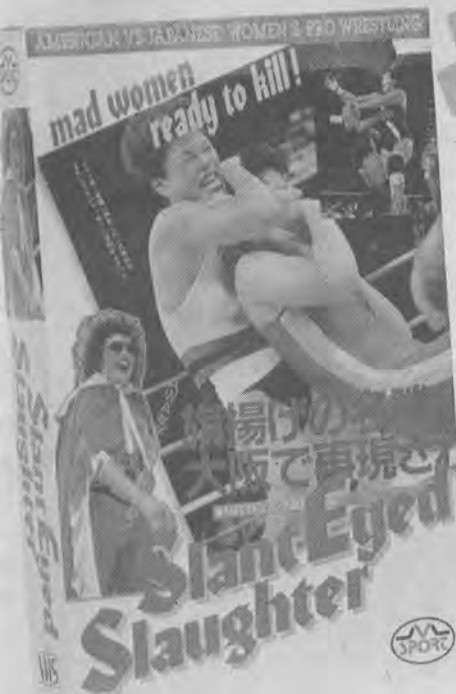
scribe left without good copy.

When Taylor and Nikita Koloff began their violent feud over the UWF and NWA TV belts late last year, Taylor called a press conference to denounce his Russian opponent. Taylor wanted his suspicions about Koloff and his patriotic transformation a matter of

public record. When Koloff discovered Taylor's intentions, he quickly called a press conference for the same time (some claim Dusty Rhodes was behind this gambit), luring journalists by claiming he would reveal major news. Reporters flocked to his press

(Continued on page 60)

THE VIDEOTAPE EVENT OF THE YEAR!



Slant-Eyed Slaughter

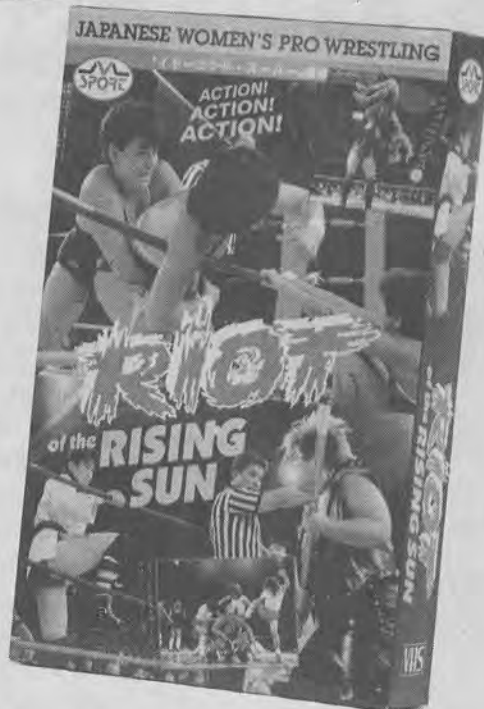
(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

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Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Norio Tateno & Itsuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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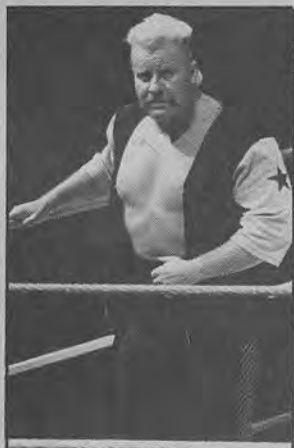
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☐ **Riot Of The Rising Sun**
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



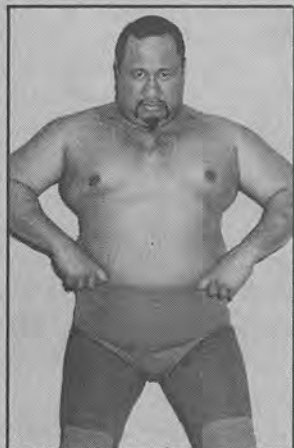
JOHNNY VALIANT

Valiant, a hated two-time co-holder of the WWF tag team championship and later an infamous manager, left the WWF after relinquishing the contracts of Dino Bravo and Greg Valentine to Frenchy Martin and Jimmy Hart, respectively. He is still active, wrestling and managing in independent wrestling associations. Valiant resides in Pittsburgh, where he made local headlines for coaching an American Legion baseball team to a 7-1 record.



ROGER KIRBY

Famous for his handlebar mustache and flamboyant ring style, Kirby was a household name throughout the midwest states for many years. This cagey rulebreaker was a co-holder of the NWA World tag team championship in 1973 with Lord Alfred Hays. Kirby has been retired for several years, and now serves as one of the chief circulation and distribution agents for the *Kansas City Star*, one of America's top daily newspapers.



TOR KAMATA

One of the most vicious men in wrestling, Kamata established himself in a classic series of matches against another rulebreaker, Abdullah the Butcher, in the mid-'70s. The Japanese native is now retired from active competition and living in Hawaii, where he operates a successful donut concession. "Life outside of wrestling has been very good to me," said Kamata recently. "I have no need to return to the mat wars."



TEX MCKENZIE

This legendary Texas cowboy was long known as the man who gave the original Sheik some of the toughest and bloodiest matches of his career. McKenzie, one of the earliest proponents of the bulldog maneuver, was also famous for providing color commentary on mid-'70s broadcasts of IWA wrestling along with blow-by-blow announcer Jack Reynolds. He now serves as a real estate salesman near his home in Seattle, Washington.

INSIDE WRESTLING

147

CAPSULE PROFILE

THE RETURN OF Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka has been eagerly awaited by fans everywhere (*"The people are what it's all about"*) ... Most famous for his "superfly" leap off the top rope, a visually exciting and competitively deadly maneuver (*"It helped make me the great star I am"*) ... The Fijian, undefeated as an amateur, made his professional debut in Hawaii in 1969, easily defeating "The Great Fiji" ... In 1977, won the NWA tag team title with Paul Orndorff (*"Brother Paul and I respect each other"*) ... Also held the Pacific Northwest title several times ... Won the U.S. championship in 1980 ... Early in 1981 regained the NWA tag title with Ray Stevens (*"There was a man I once thought I could trust"*) ... Began to achieve great success in the WWF under the management of Capt. Lou Albano (*"The brother tried to control my soul"*) ... Received several title shots at WWF champion Bob Backlund, the most famous being one in which he barely missed smashing Backlund with a 'superfly' off the top of a steel cage (*"I felt like a champion that night"*) ... Became extremely popular with the fans after he was attacked on television by Albano and Ray Stevens (*"I was greatly saddened and angered when they betrayed me"*) ... Began

JIMMY SNUKA

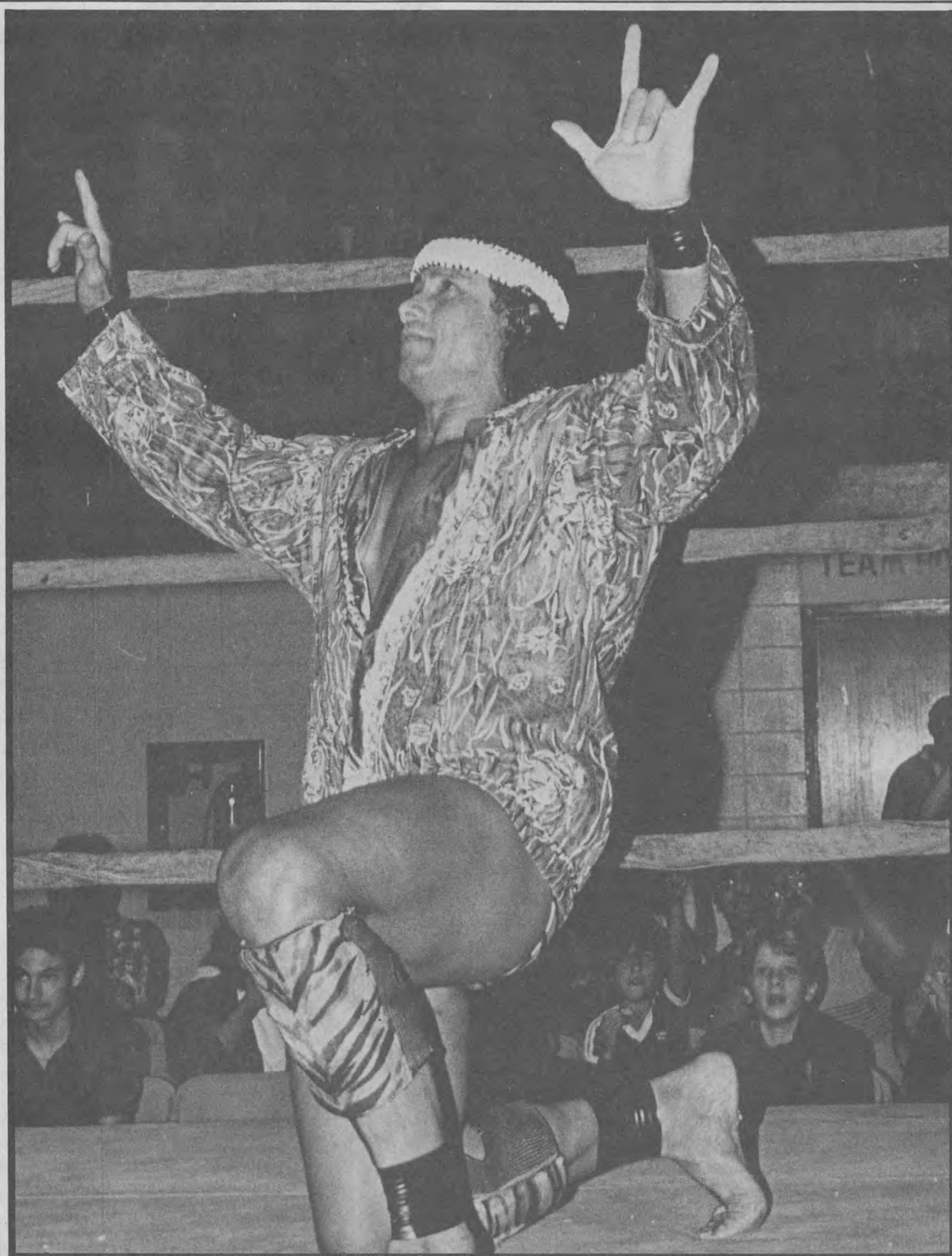


Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka dropkicks Roger Kirby. One of the most agile and skilled wrestlers in the sport's history, Snuka is set to return to the AWA.

feuding violently with Don Muraco, who was managed by Albano (*"Muraco, brother, he was one tough customer"*) ... In one of the most despicable incidents in wrestling history, Roddy Piper smashed a coconut over Snuka's head on "Piper's Pit" (*"I never experienced such humiliation before in all my life"*) ... Feuded with Piper singly and in tag teams with The Tonga Kid (now known as Islander Tama) ... Seconded Hulk Hogan and Mr. T in their match against Piper and Orndorff at the first WrestleMania in 1985 (*"Friends must be helped under all circumstances"*) ... Has wrestled extensively in Hawaii, Japan, and for several independent promotions (*"I like for a lot of my fans to see me"*) ... Re-

turned to the mainstream in 1986 at the AWA's WrestleRock, where he teamed with Greg Gagne against Bruiser Brody and Nord the Barbarian (*"That was where that action was at that time"*) ... Engaged in a bloody feud with South African Col. DeBeers, who insulted Snuka with racial bigotry (*"The man has no honor and no sense of heart in his soul"*) ... Their bouts included several diamond miner's glove matches (*"Those were his idea, but I beat him at his game"*) ... The DeBeers feud behind him, Snuka now prepares for many tough battles ahead in the AWA (*"Many men in this business don't care for 'The Superfly.' I don't care if they like me, but I will teach them to respect me"*) □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP

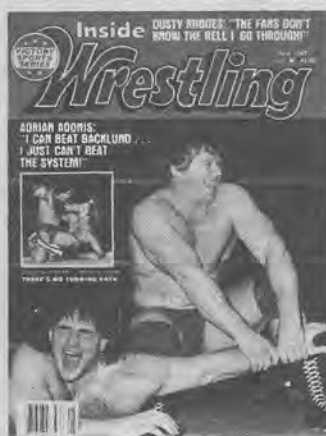


JIMMY SNUKA

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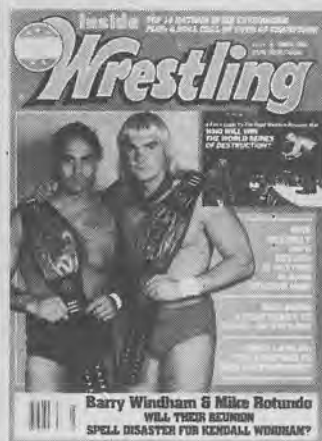


MAY 1982

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.
October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.



MARCH 1986

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.

October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
September 1988/SPECIAL ISSUE: Col-or coverage of WMV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup, Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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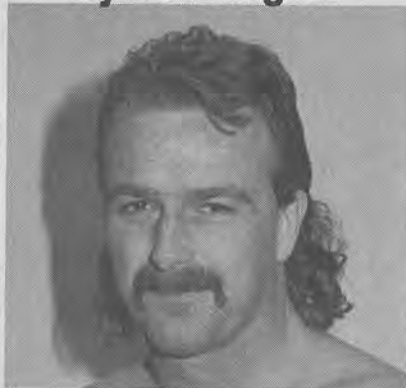
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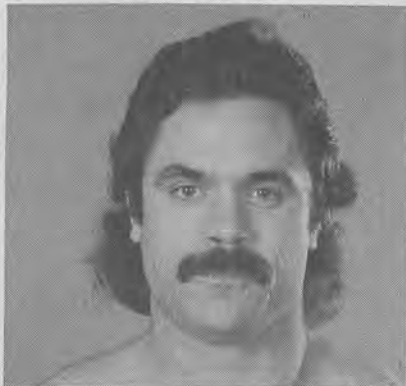
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PHILADELPHIA, PA By Don Wagner



**JAKE ROBERTS
vs.
RICK RUDE**



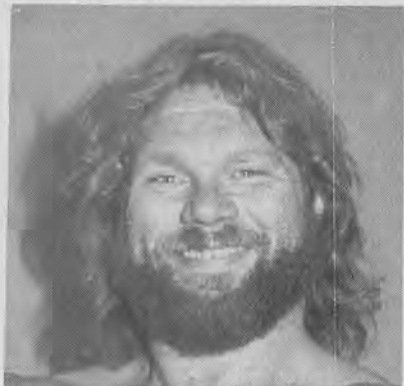
Rude was in control for most of the match until Roberts flipped him over the ropes. But it was Rude who proceeded to ram "The Snake" into the ring railing and the ringposts. Rude threw Roberts back into the ring and stood over him flexing his muscles and showing off. When Rude finally went for the cover, he merely placed his knees on Roberts' shoulders, enabling him to get up and roll Rude over for the three-count.

OTHER BOUTS: The Rougeaus defeated The Young Stallions ... Bad News Brown and Bret Hart wrestled to a draw ... Hacksaw Duggan defeated Andre the Giant by DQ ... Bobby Heenan & The Islanders beat The British Bulldogs & Koko B. Ware ... Ted DiBiase pinned Don Muraco.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN By Niles Driskell



**ANDRE THE GIANT
vs.
HACKSAW DUGGAN**



Andre began by choking Hacksaw. He turned the choke into a headlock, backed Duggan into a corner, and started rear-butting him. On Andre's fourth try, he missed. Hacksaw began punching Andre and executed four running clotheslines. Andre bailed out of the ring, but Hacksaw followed him, smashing the Giant's head into the timekeeper's table. When Hacksaw wasn't looking, Andre smashed him with his own 2x4. Andre returned to the ring and won by countout.

OTHER BOUTS: Randy Savage defeated Ted DiBiase ... The Rougeaus beat The Killer Bees ... Sherri Martel pinned Rockin' Robin ... Bad News Brown defeated Bret Hart ... Tito Santana & Don Muraco beat Demolition by DQ ... Danny Davis bested Lanny Poffo.

MEMPHIS, TN By Ryan Milton



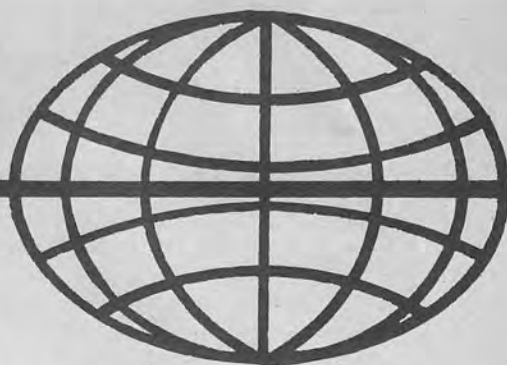
**JERRY LAWLER
vs.
CURT HENNIG**



This was a no-DQ, no-time limit match for the AWA World title. Well into the action, Lawler accidentally threw Hennig into referee Jerry Calhoun, knocking Hennig, the ref, and himself out cold. Hennig managed to cover Lawler while the ref was still out. Robert Fuller then came out in a referee's shirt and made the three-count. When referee Calhoun woke up, he declared the pin invalid. Lawler then woke up, sneaked behind Hennig, and pinned him with a cradle.

OTHER BOUTS: Doug Furnas beat Cuban Assassin I ... Scott Steiner & Billy Travis defeated Don Bass & Gary Young by DQ ... Brickhouse Brown and Max Pain battled to a double-count-out ... Dutch Mantel & Great Senshe defeated Robert Fuller & Jimmy Golden by DQ.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



MESQUITE, TX By Jesse Salinas



KERRY VON ERICH
vs.
TERRY GORDY



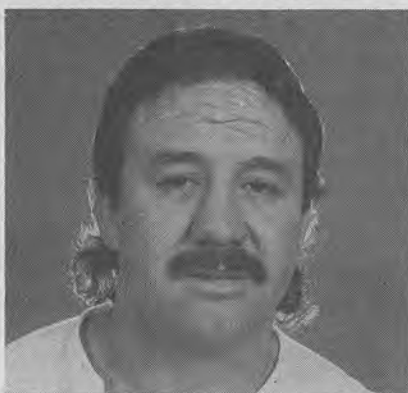
Von Erich and Gordy exchanged several boneshaking bodyslams, clotheslines, and punches throughout the match. At the 15-minute mark, Iceman Parsons and Skandor Akbar interfered, causing Gordy to be disqualified. Michael Hayes and Kevin Von Erich then cleared the ring. Despite the DQ, Kerry and Gordy decided to start wrestling again. Both men were bleeding, but they fought to a 30-minute draw. After the bell rang, they shook hands and received a standing ovation.

OTHER BOUTS: Missing Link defeated Vince Apollo ... Shaun Simpson drew with Buddy Roberts ... Eric Embry defeated Skip Young ... Michael Hayes beat Kamala by DQ ... Jerry Lawler beat Iceman Parsons ... Kevin Von Erich defeated Terry Taylor.

NEW HAVEN, CT By Jean Alcove



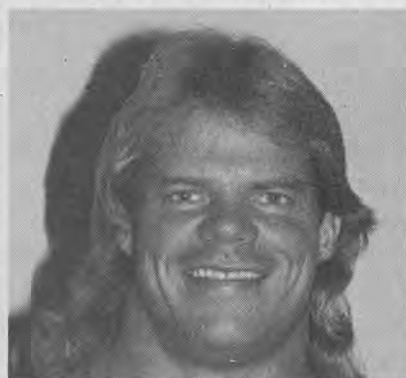
WAHOO McDANIEL
vs.
MANNY FERNANDEZ



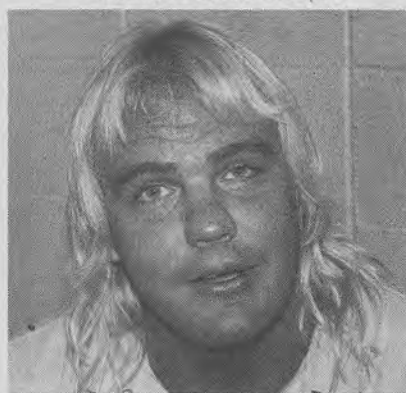
This joint AWA/NWF card featured a slugfest between two wily veterans. After exchanging heated words and vicious chops, the action spilled out onto the floor. Both men rammed each other into the ringposts and fought all the way back to the dressing room, hitting each other with chairs. Fernandez opened a bloody gash on Wahoo's head on the way to this match being ruled a double-countout.

OTHER BOUTS: Jerry Lawler pinned Curt Hennig ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express and Bad Company were both counted out ... Madusa Miceli pinned Heidi Lee Morgan ... Cheetah Kid beat Cactus Jack Foley ... Damien Kane drew with Larry Winters.

JOHNSON CITY, TN By Steve Bledsoe



LEX LUGER
vs.
BARRY WINDHAM



To start the match, Windham shoved Luger. After an exchange of blows, Luger pressed Windham over his head and slammed him. The action spilled outside the ring, with Luger ramming Windham into the timekeeper's table. Windham, bleeding heavily, caught Luger in a sleeper. Luger escaped from the hold by hitting Windham in the groin. Lex then left the ring to go after J.J. Dillon. Windham followed him, and both wrestlers were counted out.

OTHER BOUTS: The Road Warriors beat Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson by DQ ... Al Perez pinned Max McGyver ... Sting, Nikita Koloff, & Steve Williams beat Joe Cruze, Doug Savage, & Mark Starr.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

GLENS FALLS, NY: Demolition is dead. You heard it here first, so remember me in a couple of months when Demolition is wrestling in preliminary matches and The Powers of Pain have the WWF tag belts strapped tightly around those massive frames of theirs. Warlord and Barbarian have it over Ax and Smash in every department, and it's not going to be long before they run these guys right out of town on a pair of stretchers. I saw it for myself up here during a series of WWF TV tapings. Demolition was scheduled to wrestle Strike Force, but Rick Martel was unable to wrestle because of a concussion suffered at the hands of Ax and Smash. So Tito Santana, who is proving to be a lot smarter than I ever gave him credit for, came out with The Powers of Pain and had *them* wrestle Demolition. This made sense for a number of reasons. First of all, nobody in the WWF had ever seen Warlord and Barbarian (unless they're also NWA fans), so there was the surprise factor. And second of all, these are two of the most impressive individuals I've seen in all my years on this beat. As expected, they delivered a severe beating to Demolition before Ax and Smash

finally threw up their arms and ran back to the dressing room. Later on in the evening, when Warlord and Barbarian wrestled again, Mr. Fuji came out to take pictures and Slick also checked them out. Already everybody wants a piece of them, but I don't think these guys want or need to take on a manager. The fans love them already, and they have all the tools to go as far as they want.



ROAD WARRIOR HAWK VS. YOSHIAKI YATSU

TOKYO, JAPAN: If you're a fan of The Road Warriors, these are not good times. The Warriors were over here on tour in June to defend their All-Japan International tag team belts, the ones they've held since March 12, 1987, in a series of matches against Jumbo Tsuruta and Yoshiaki Yatsu, the Pacific Wrestling Federation tag champs. Things did not work out too well. The first night, Animal pinned Yatsu at 7:56 in a non-title match, but they weren't so lucky the following evening at Budokan Hall. In Japan, it's possible to lose a title by disqualification, and that's just what happened. The Warriors were DQ'd at 13:48 of a real barnburner, so now Yatsu and Tsuruta are the PWF *and* International tag champs (although in Japan, they're just calling them by the name of what they consider to be the more significant title: the PWF tag team champs). Animal and Hawk took a lot of pride in those belts,



SMASH SMASHES THE BARBARIAN

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

especially since some people consider Japanese wrestling superior to the American version (I *definitely* don't), and it hurt them to lose it. Put it this way: Not too long ago, the Warriors were considered the top tag team in the world. Now it's not so cut and dried. They don't have the All-Japan belts, they're not even close to the NWA World belts, and, to make matters worse, their impersonators, Demolition, are WWF World tag champs. Then a few days after the Warriors lost the belts, they were informed that their archrivals in the NWA, Warlord and Barbarian, took off for the WWF. Now, if you're any team but the Warriors, that's good news because it saves you a lot of trouble. But Animal and Hawk still had a score to settle with The Powers of Pain. Now they can't do it, unless they also go to the WWF. And I can't really see that happening.

FT. WORTH, TX: Jerry Lawler, the AWA World champ and a man I have tremendous respect for (he's fought them all and he's beaten them all) came here and pinned World Class Texas champion Terry Taylor in a rare cross-federation match. That's definitely a big positive step forward in this sport because you rarely seen cross-federation matches these days. The big news, however, is that before the match, Lawler and World Class champion Kerry Von Erich were interviewed in the ring and both men claimed that their belt is the real world title. Despite the fact that few people any-

where even feel that World Class' belt is worthy of world title consideration, Lawler and Von Erich will meet in a series of title vs. title matches to—*ahem!*—settle matters. In reality, nothing will be settled. The last four men to hold the AWA World title—Lawler, Curt Hennig, Nick Bockwinkel, and Stan Hansen—are among the finest competitors this sport has ever seen, but their challengers were generally below par. There was really nobody in the AWA capable of beating Hennig for his belt until he made the mistake of putting it on the line in the CWA. Now, besides Hennig, there's nobody in the AWA that can handle Lawler. The fact that he's wrestling champs from other federations is great, and it would be nice if other federations followed his lead. If World Class and the AWA are really interested in deciding one world champion, they're going to have to arrange to have a couple of guys named Ric Flair and Randy Savage compete. Meanwhile, we'll have to settle for Taylor vs. Lawler, which isn't too shabby considering that they're two of the finest wrestlers in the sport.

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ: A couple of months ago I checked out the Mike Tyson-Tony Tubbs heavyweight boxing fight in Japan, just to get an idea of how Japanese fans react to boxing, and I ended up getting interested in this Tyson character. So, figuring that a big heavyweight fight doesn't come along too often, I bussed down to the shore to check out Tyson-Spinks. I got down here the Saturday before the fight and ended up at the same bar with a couple of beat writers. When they found out that I was a wrestling writer, they started quizzing me about pay-per-view TV, realizing, apparently, that wrestling set the stage for boxing's venture into PPV (the Tyson-Spinks fight was one of the biggest PPV events ever). Eventually, we agreed that the future of boxing and wrestling is pay-per-view. There's really no doubt about it. Pay-per-view will make both sports bigger and better. There's going to be more money to be made and everybody will be fighting a little harder for it. Ten years from now, I hope nobody forgets that Vince McMahon, along with Jim Crockett and Ted Turner, made it all possible. □

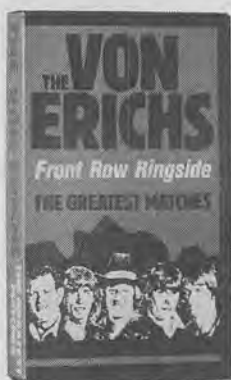


KERRY VON ERICH & JERRY LAWLER



A VON ERICH EXTRAVAGANZA!

The Von Erich family has long been known as "The First Family Of Professional Wrestling." Now, a deluxe-quality videotape and collectors' edition hardcover book bring all the excitement, drama, tragedy, and triumph of the Von Erichs into your home!



THE VON ERICHS: FRONT ROW RINGSIDE is an up-close and personal look at the Von Erich legend culled from the extensive video library of World Class Championship Wrestling and featuring at-home interviews with Kerry, Kevin, Mike, and Fritz. This program will be a valuable addition to your videotape collection. (Sorry, VHS format only is available in this special offer.) Included in this sensational 70-minute tape:

- The entire June 1, 1982, Fritz Von Erich no-disqualification retirement match against King Kong Bundy.
- The complete March 4, 1983, Kevin Von Erich-Terry Gordy match in which Kevin won the World Class American belt!
- Highlights of David Von Erich battling Jim Garvin, Kamala, and Harley Race.
- The entire May 6, 1984, bout in which Kerry Von Erich captured the NWA World title from Ric Flair at Texas Stadium in front of 43,518 fans.
- Highlights of Mike Von Erich's November 24, 1983, debut match against

Gen. Skandor Akbar, and a battle against John Tatum.

- Rare footage of Chris Von Erich; Fritz vs. Joe Blanchard; David spanking Sunshine; six-man action featuring Mike, Lance, & Kevin, and David, Kevin, and Kerry; and Mike's hospitalization from toxic shock syndrome.

THE VON ERICHS: A FAMILY ALBUM is a magnificent history of the *entire* Von Erich family in words and pictures. Subtitled "Tragedies And Triumphs Of America's First Family Of Wrestling," the book chronicles Fritz, Doris, Kevin, David, Kerry, Mike, and Chris—plus rare photos of Jack—in over 100 black-and-white photographs and 32 pages of dazzling color photography. Many of these photos are from the Von Erich personal family scrapbooks (including many baby photos and school portraits) and have *never* been published anywhere—until now! This beautifully designed hardcover volume measures 8½x11 and is 128 pages in length. You'll be proud to add this to your personal library.



SPECIAL OFFER!

You might expect to spend upwards of \$59.95 or \$69.95 for a Von Erich videotape of this quality, or \$20.00 or more for the Von Erich family scrapbook. But in this special magazine offer, you can get *The Von Erichs: Front Row Ringside* for the low price of only \$29.95 (plus \$3.00 postage and handling), and *The Von Erichs: A Family Album* for the low price of just \$13.95 (plus \$2.00 postage and handling).

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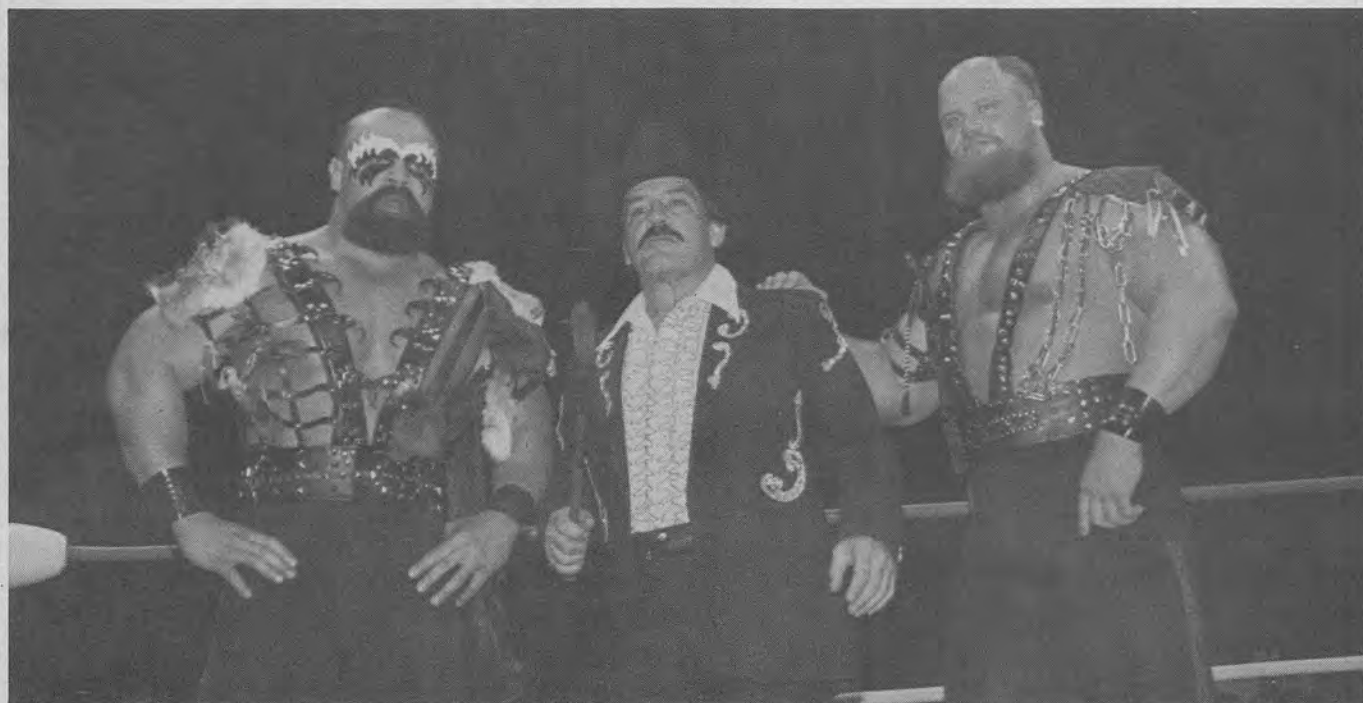
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The Truth Revealed!

WHY WARLORD AND BARBARIAN FLED THE NWA

After emerging as one of the most brutal and fearsome teams in wrestling, the Powers of Pain decided to leave the NWA. Their manager, Paul Jones, was shocked when the massive duo disappeared, but it may have been Jones himself who was responsible for driving his team away!



THE HOTEL CLERK repeated the information again, even though he had said it at least 10 times already. But at this point, he'd do *anything* to get rid of the verbally abusive man on the other side of the window.

"Sir, this is all I know," said the flustered clerk. "Mr. Warlord and Mr. Barbarian checked out of their room at 6:35 a.m. They left no message and gave no forwarding address. That's all the information in the logbook."

"But *where* did they go?" screamed infamous NWA manager Paul Jones, the angered guest. "If you don't want

Warlord and Barbarian—The Powers of Pain—left the NWA and their manager Paul Jones (above) for the WWF. Warlord slams Demolition Ax (below); the Powers have joined forces with Tito Santana to go after Demolition's WWF World tag team belts.





Warlord attacks Animal during a weightlifting competition (top left). Barbarian uses a ladder on Hawk (left). Warlord grapples with a masked Animal (above). The Powers of Pain avoided a Bash series with The Road Warriors.

me to climb over this counter and bust your melon-head wide open, you had better give me some answers right now!"

"Sir, I'm afraid the only people who can answer your question are Mr. Barbarian and Mr. Warlord," said the clerk, who called the next person in line to the window.

The stunned Jones stared down at his alligator boots. He knew the desk clerk was entirely correct, but he didn't want to face it. The veteran manager knew that Barbarian and Warlord had left the hotel, quit his stable, and were now gone from the NWA. On that fateful morning, Jones realized that his beloved Powers of Pain were no more. More important, he knew why.

When he arrived at the arena that

evening, Jones was wondering what he would tell the promoters, as he knew that Warlord and Barbarian would not show for their scheduled match. He was surprised when he saw one of the promoters waiting for him in the dressing room holding a Western Union telegram.

"This came for you this afternoon," said the promoter, who handed Jones the telegram and left the locker room. Jones sat down on a bench and opened the envelope. His eyes moistened as he read its contents.

"NO WAY WE'LL RISK OUR CAREERS ON THAT SCAFFOLD," the telegram read. "YOU DON'T GIVE A DAMN IF WE GET HURT. WE'VE TAKEN ORDERS FROM YOU LONG ENOUGH. WE'VE DE-

CIDED TO TAKE A BETTER OFFER IN THE WWF. MAY YOU ROT IN HELL FOREVER."

The telegram was unsigned, but Jones knew precisely who it was from.

"Typical," said Jones, as his mind struggled to balance his extreme disappointment with the hatred running through his veins. "Right on the verge of ending the myth of The Road Warriors for good, and my big, strong, capable wrestlers turn into cringing cowards! Losers! *Scum!* They haven't heard the last of me yet!"

For most of the past six months, Jones had dedicated himself to the elimination of The Road Warriors. If he could rid wrestling of Animal and Hawk, Jones figured, his Powers of Pain would become the most feared



men in the sport. Now, not only had his wrestlers deserted him, but their NWA six-man championship with Ivan Koloff was immediately vacated.

Warlord and Barbarian had blazed a path of tyranny through the NWA since the beginning of the year. In January Jones thought that the Powers had ended Animal's career when they crushed the orbital socket around his left eye in an attack during a weightlifting challenge. With Animal injured, the duo, along with Ivan Koloff, won the NWA six-man belts from Hawk, Paul Ellering, and Dusty Rhodes the next month in Philadelphia. Phase one of Jones' evil plan had been successful, although Animal would return to action quicker than he expected.

Warlord and Barbarian continued their barbarism when they attempted to injure Animal's back during a match in May. The final element of Jones' scheme was to obliterate the Warriors in a series of dangerous scaffold matches during the NWA's Great American Bash series. Even though Jones had signed the matches for his team, the idea was completely unacceptable to Warlord and Barbarian.

"I heard what sounded like a fight outside their dressing room one night

Santana stunned the wrestling world when he brought the "new look" Powers of Pain to the WWF. It has been revealed that Warlord and Barbarian left the NWA because they were afraid to wrestle in scaffold matches against the Warriors. Santana was forced to recruit new talent against Demolition when his partner, Rick Martel, was injured.

about a week before they quit," said veteran reporter Matt Brock. "The two big guys were screaming about wanting new competition. They also mentioned the scaffold matches. I couldn't miss hearing it; they were screaming at the top of their lungs. The big men didn't want to risk life and limb by falling from 25 feet up in the air."

Warlord and Barbarian, who weigh in at a combined 655 pounds, may have a point. Scaffold matches, one of the most deadly ways ever devised to end feuds, seem better suited for lighter tag teams with better balance.

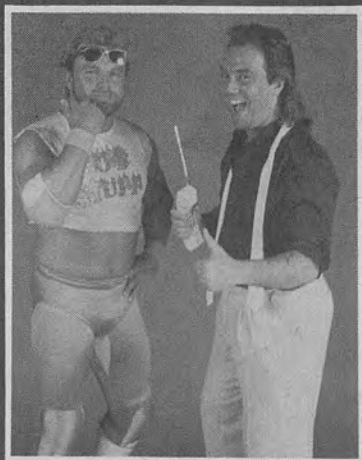
"I'm generally considered to be a master at scaffold matches," boasts Jim Cornette, who broke a leg at Starrcade '86 when he fell from the scaffold during a match pitting his Midnight Express against The Road Warriors. "Smaller, more lithe competitors, such as myself, have the edge in these matches. I think Barbarian and Warlord may have a point, although that doesn't excuse their actions in leaving Jones. Could you imagine what would happen if one of those

bruisers ever fell to the mat from 25 feet up? *Ugh!*"

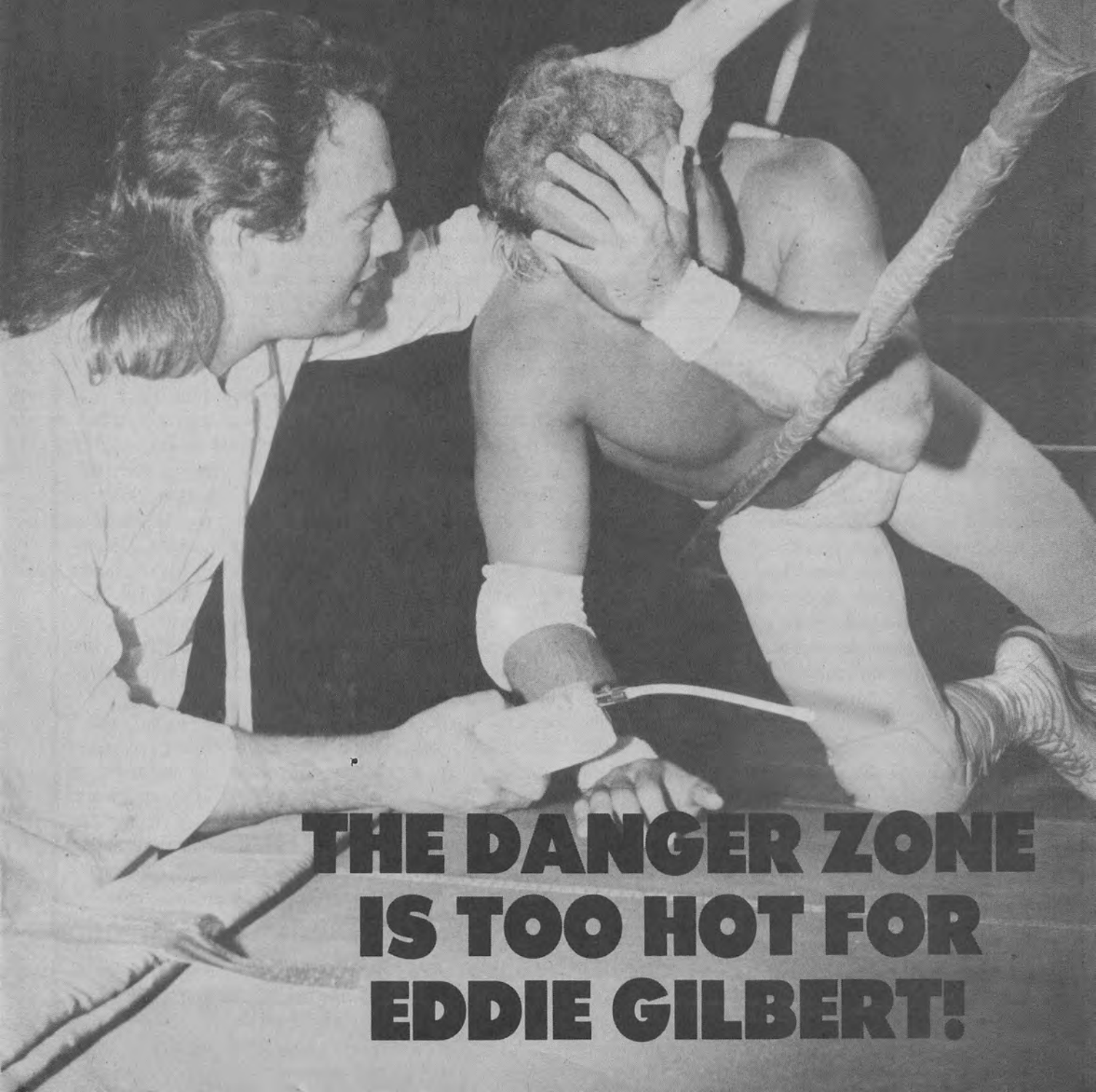
The disagreement with Jones over these matches was enough to send Barbarian and Warlord packing, and it also prompted a change in their attitudes. Their first appearance in the WWF saw them assisting Tito Santana in Strike Force's war against Demolition. Jones, meanwhile, has rebounded with a 6'8" monster called The Russian Assassin, who will team with Koloff throughout the summer. But things in the Jones stable will never be the same.

"I'll never—*ever!*—forget this," Jones promised. "Warlord and Barbarian don't have the toughness to work with me. No one just up and leaves me. It may take months or years, but I *will* get my revenge, and in the cruelest way possible. I will make them suffer like I have suffered."

It was Jones who provided Warlord and Barbarian with the name The Powers of Pain. Nobody ever figured that the biggest pain would be suffered by Jones himself. □



**Despite
Paul E's
Cold Cash...**



**THE DANGER ZONE
IS TOO HOT FOR
EDDIE GILBERT!**

EDDIE GILBERT WOULD be the first to tell you that he only wrestles for the money.

Love of the mat science? "A fancy way of beating people up," he sneers. The thrill of athletic competition? "I get plenty of thrills from Missy Hyatt," he laughs. The respect of his peers? "They can respect my . . ."

"Eddie, baby! What's goin' on?" Paul E. Dangerously yells.

"There's why I wrestle," Gilbert says, pointing across the room at Dangerously. "Paul E, my main man. The best damn manager in the sport. My meal ticket, if you will."

The two men met in the center of the room and embraced. "Eddie, I've been looking all over for you," Dangerously said. "Been doing some thinking this morning,



Paul E. Dangerously warns our photographer to back off as he tends to Eddie Gilbert and his own broken telephone after another close brush with danger. The duo has lately been stirring up a lot of trouble in the Continental area.

Eddie Gilbert has always considered himself a master of his own destiny, so it is strange that he has decided to let Paul E. Dangerously manage him. Gilbert's need for self-control may be surpassed only by his lust for Dangerously's money—and that greed could end his career!

and I've got some ideas about your match tonight. Whattya say we head over to the gym for a workout and talk this over in private?"

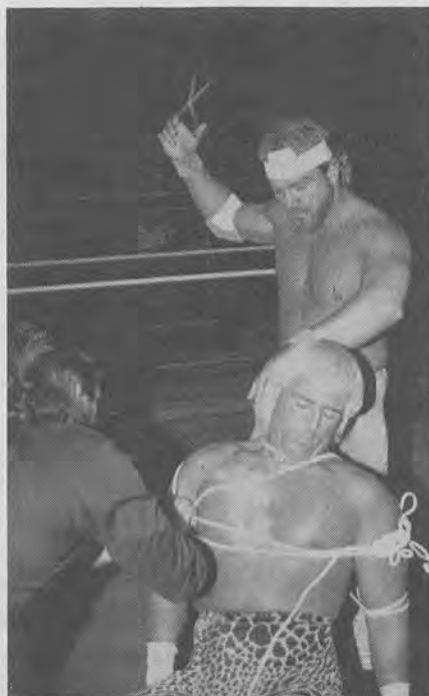
"Sounds good to me, boss," Gilbert agreed. "Hang on while I get my gear."

"What a great guy!" Dangerously smiled. "Best I've ever managed. Works his butt off every night. Never complains. And, of course, having Missy around doesn't hurt the scenery. You know, the three of us together are gonna make wrestling history. Don't believe me? Just stand back and watch."

"Let's go, buddy," Gilbert said. "I wanna get to the gym before it gets crowded. We've got a long day ahead of us."

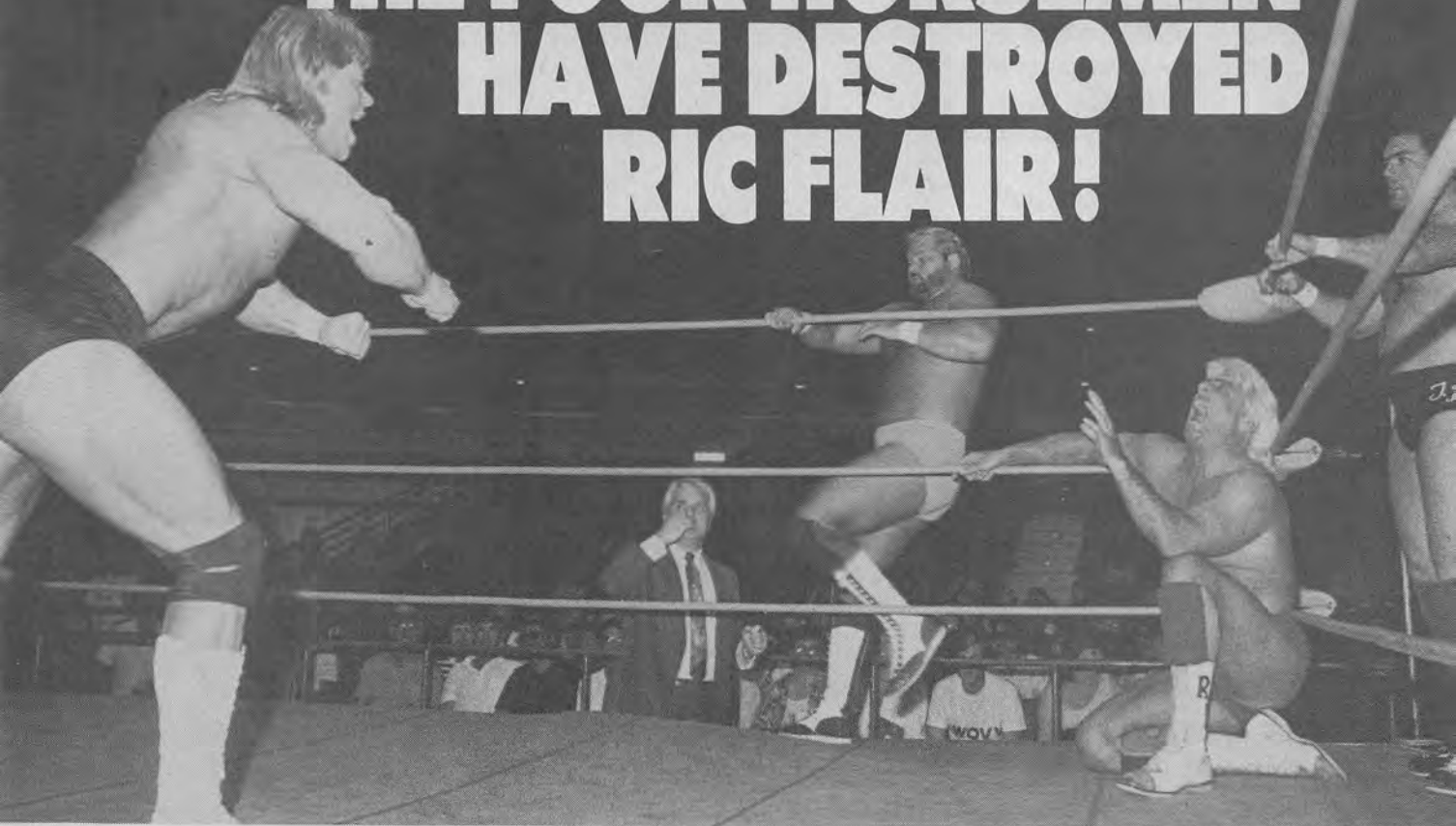
"Yeah, a looooooong day," Dangerously said with a laugh as

(Continued on page 54)



Dangerously ties up Austin Idol while Gilbert cuts his hair (above left). Gilbert catches Mr. Olympia in a sleeper (above right). Paul E. was angry with Idol and Olympia because they refused to accept his generous financial offers.

A Championship Embarrassment: **THE FOUR HORSEMEN HAVE DESTROYED RIC FLAIR!**



KIDS LIKE TO play a game called "King of the Mountain." By the provisions of this game's unwritten rulebook, a player is king as long as he occupies the top of the makeshift hill. If he loses, whether by being knocked off by a rival or falling off by his own clumsiness, he forfeits his position of royalty. You win, you're champ; you lose, you're no longer champ. And there's no ducking the challengers who attack from below. It's that simple.

Wrestling could stand to benefit from such simplicity. Because the way things are now, the potential exists for massive abuse of the position of champion. The shine of a

championship belt is easily dulled by the tarnish of cowardice.

Ric Flair's NWA World title belt is being tarnished. And while it may not be entirely his fault, it is he who must take full responsibility.

With each title-saving run-in by The Four Horsemen, and each non-title tag team match Flair is involved in, it becomes obvious that "The Nature Boy" no longer embodies the championship integrity and spirit that brought him five NWA World titles and made him perhaps the most revered pure wrestler of the decade.

Even before the advent of The Four Horsemen, Flair's title reigns

Lex Luger's flexed physique intimidates Ric Flair (above). Flair and J.J. Dillon combine to whip Steve "Dr. Death" Williams across the ring (below).



There's something about a true champion. A true champion dodges no challenger. A true champion consistently beats all opponents. A true champion stands alone. It all adds up to one thing: integrity. But if this is the standard by which a true champion is judged, Ric Flair should give up on the idea of being remembered as the greatest champion ever

could not be considered pure. He has always been a slow starter and has had to use his stamina to rally from behind. He has always used the disqualification rule to save his title when in deep trouble. He has always split his spare time between working out and partying.

But before the formation of The Four Horsemen, he never ...

- Competed halfheartedly, securing the continuation of his title reign with well-timed run-ins.

- Utilized others to protect him from his top challengers.

- Competed in an overabundance of tag team matches where his belt is not at stake.

But those factors play just a small part in explaining why Flair is not the competitor he once was. Indeed, being a champion means more than simply *having* the belt.

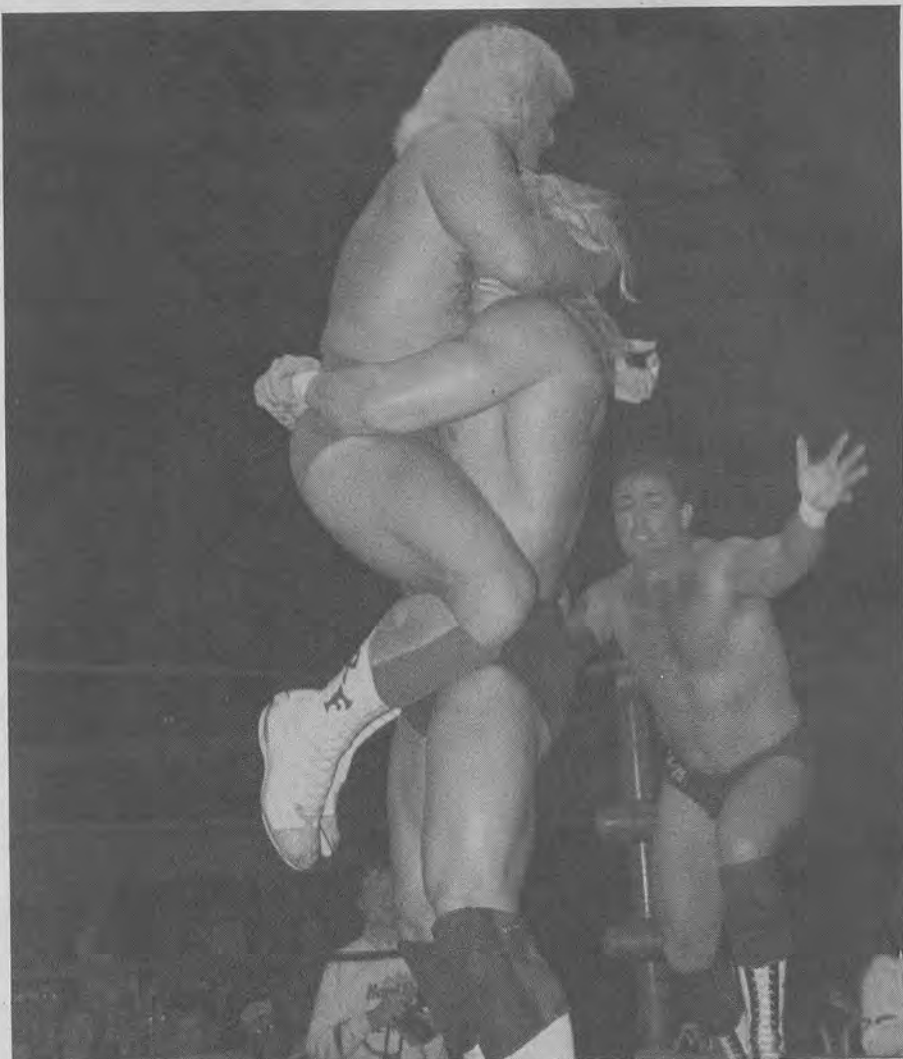
Being a champion means never running into a parking lot in street clothes to cripple a man who is scheduled to face you in the ring next week or next month (which, since the development of the Horsemen, Flair has repeatedly done).

Being a champion means never allowing your manager to distract an opponent during a title match while you grab a chair to finish off your foe (as the Horseman Flair has made a habit of doing).

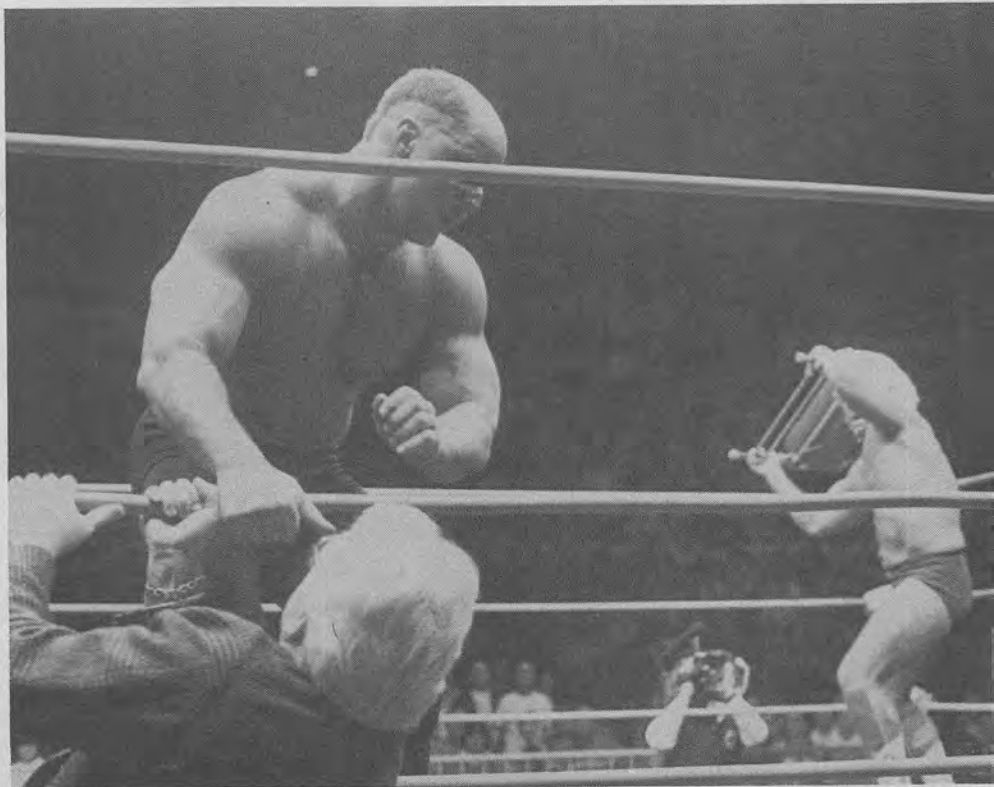
To take the Ric Flair of 1988 and compare him with the Ric Flair of, say, 1984, is to see a shocking change of attitude, style, and demeanor. During his first two title reigns (1981 through 1984), Flair was a champion who knew what greatness was. When he was on his own, he couldn't afford to be complacent. With no one around to bail him out when he got into trouble, he either put forth the maximum effort or risked losing. His dependence on his fellow Horsemen has given him the opportunity to become lazy; he has taken advantage of that opportunity.

It's interesting to compare what is being written about Flair here to

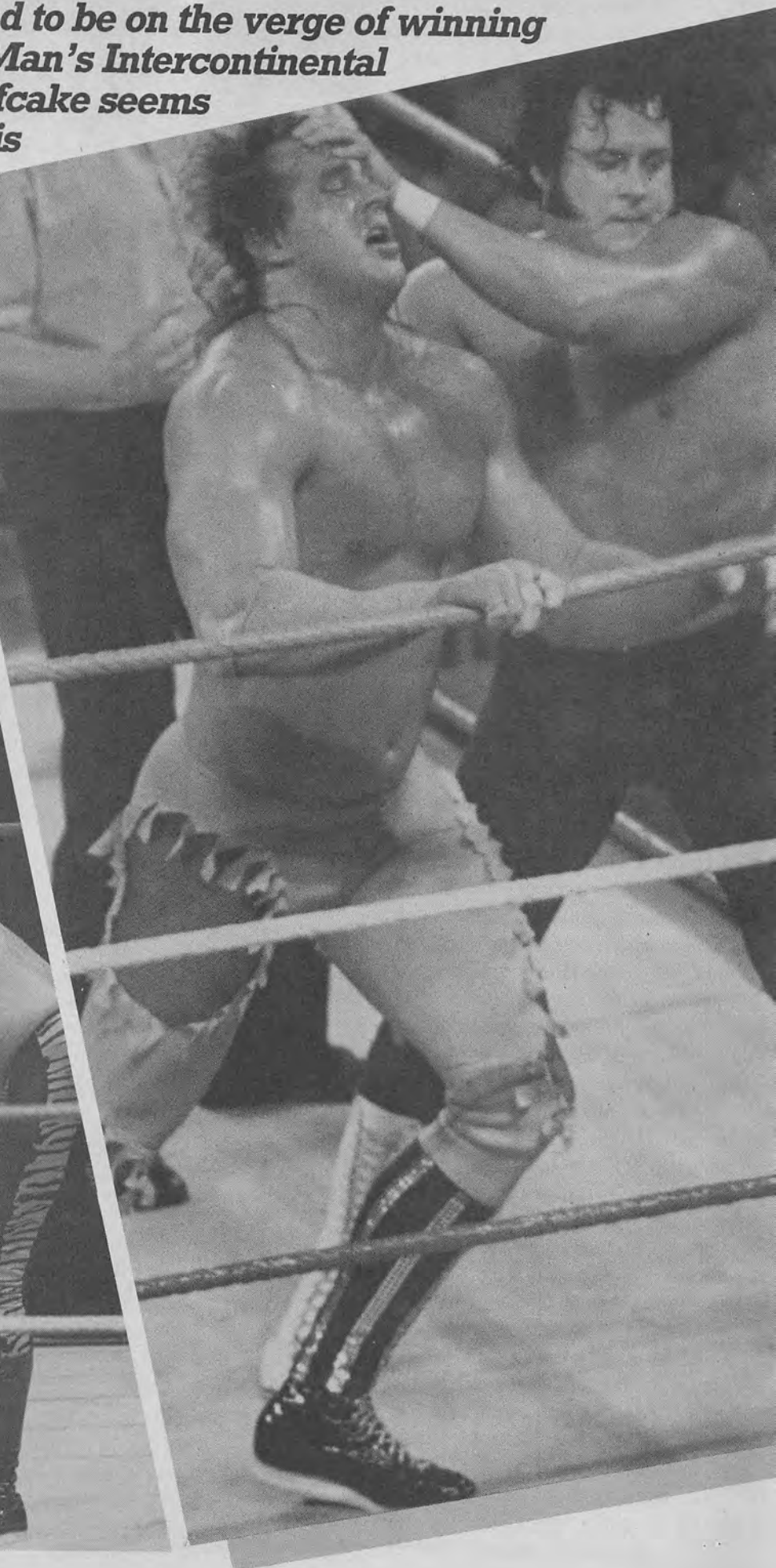
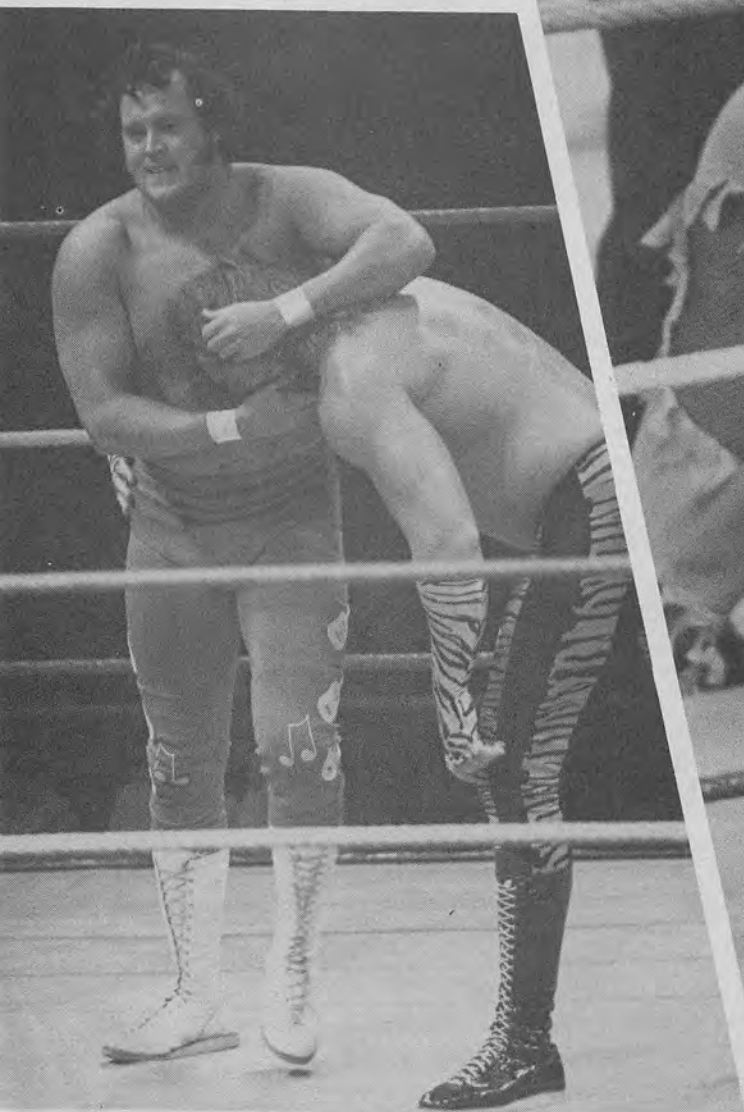
(Continued on page 58)



Caught in a Luger bearhug, Flair is about to be saved by Tully Blanchard (above). Using Dillon as a distraction, Flair goes after Road Warrior Hawk with a chair (below). The NWA World champion consistently relies on such tactics.



**Once considered to be on the verge of winning
The Honky Tonk Man's Intercontinental
title, Brutus Beefcake seems
to have lost his
competitive
edge. How
long will
Beefcake
continue his
ridiculous
charade as a
barber? Perhaps
just long enough
for Honky Tonk
to dispose of him**



Brutus Beefcake VS. Honky Tonk Man:

IS "THE BARBER" CUTTING HIS OWN THROAT?

THEY COMPLIMENT EACH other in ways without virtue. Wrestlers by profession, both are moderately successful, yet each dreams of triumph in other fields. They bleed and suffer and make human sounds, but one swears their lives are lived in cartoon playgrounds.

It comes down to this:

Does Brutus Beefcake dream of world championships or of the perfect hairdo? Is clipping an opponent's scalp his idea of a fine time, or would he rather win a championship belt? Would The Honky Tonk Man trade his Intercontinental belt for a recording contract? If the ghost of Elvis Presley instructed him to leave the ring, would he comply?

A study of Brutus the moonlighting barber suggests that Beefcake may have inhaled too much hairspray. The clipper-crazy grappler's insistence on scalping his opponents threatens to compromise his championship career goals beyond repair.

"It's distracting," said a highly placed WWF source. "All he thinks about is clipping hair. After a match, back in the locker room, he never refers to a finishing maneuver. He never says how tough the match was. He holds up a clump of sweaty hair and gloats. He's not a wrestler, he's a barber."

The ultimate compliment? Or the beginning of the end to a once-promising career?

Just three years ago, Beefcake was touted as a favorite to dethrone WWF World champion Hulk Hogan. The youngster embodied all the classic elements of a top-notch rulebreaker: a vicious ring instinct, a knowledgeable style, and a cocky, controlled enthusiasm. But where the lightning bolt emblazoned on his trunks once represented cosmic potential, a hairdryer would now be a more appropriate symbol. Beefcake would rather cut than fight.

And Honky Tonk Man's perfect coiffure represents a scissor-happy

(Continued from page 62)

The Honky Tonk Man's domination of Brutus Beefcake (opposite page and above) is casting doubts on "The Barber's" ability.

HOTSEAT

JERRY LAWLER

"I'D GO ANYWHERE TO DEFEND MY WORLD TITLE!"

GOOD THINGS COME to those who wait. Patience is a virtue. Hard work pays off.

Jerry Lawler, a man with all the qualifications to win a world title, tried to believe the cliches, but they didn't ease the longing in his heart. For years, his most driving ambition was to capture a world title.

Lawler has been considered a worthy contender for much of the past two decades, and boasts victories over men such as Randy Savage, Hulk Hogan, Harley Race, Ric Flair, and Nick Bockwinkel. Unfortunately, those victories came either before or after his opponents' title reigns. The Memphis native knew he was as good as anyone in the sport. All he needed was the belt to prove it.

Now he's got it.

Lawler captured the AWA World title from Curt Hennig on May 9 in Memphis' Mid-South Coliseum. When Lawler pinned Hennig after 21:10 of gut-wrenching action, it was front page news in Memphis. Network television shows were interrupted to give the announcement of this stunning victory.

Considering the intense Lawler-Memphis relationship, many experts believed the new champ would bask in his superstardom and make opponents come to Tennessee for matches. Thus

far, the opposite has been the case. Lawler has defended his AWA belt at arenas all over the United States. Meanwhile, men like Hennig, Iceman Parsons, and Soldat Ustinov are vowing to dethrone "The King."

Assistant Editor Bob Smith traveled to Memphis to meet with Lawler, who welcomed the chance to discuss his recent achievements.

“

[The AWA] allows me to wrestle against anyone they deem a worthy contender, and I say bring 'em on. The variety of opponents helps keep me sharp.

”

Q: Jerry, your AWA championship seems to be on the minds of almost everybody I've met since I arrived here. I don't think there's another wrestler in the sport who's as loved in any city as much as you are here in Memphis.

A: It's very flattering for you to point that out, Bobby, and I think that's

been the most important aspect of my winning this title. I owed it to my fans here, and it's long overdue, believe me. As you know, I was going to retire if I couldn't defeat Hennig, and I meant it.

Q: You've threatened to retire before, though. Back in 1985, you said you would quit the sport if you couldn't defeat Ric Flair for his NWA championship by the end of that year.

A: That's true. I said I would retire if I couldn't beat Flair, and I don't deny it. To this day I believe that I can still defeat Ric, but back in 1985 I got bogged down—as usual—with that idiot Eddie Gilbert, who was on the verge of tearing down everything that I had built in the Mid-Southern region. I decided that my hometown fans were more important than my own personal gain. But that's the past; this time, I battled, I won, and I'm going to prove to Memphis and the world what a real champion is like.

Q: But you *did* say you would retire if you couldn't beat Hennig . . .

A: As you know, I've been involved in wrestling for a long time now. I knew in my heart that I'm every bit as good as the other champions, but if I'd been lying to myself





“

[Eddie Gilbert is] the worst slime I've ever come up against. As far as pure evil goes, he's got to be the devil himself.

”

about my own abilities, then there really was no reason to go on with wrestling. Luckily, the officials in the AWA had declared me the number-one contender to Hennig's title a few months ago. Hennig, the snake that he is, didn't want to hear about it. I had to agree to all kinds of crazy stipulations to even get him to *sign* for the match. First, the match was set in Memphis, and he didn't like that very much. Then, the fans had a phone-in poll to pick the referee, who turned out to be Jackie Fargo. Hennig wanted his daddy, Larry, to be the referee for the title bout. I figured I can beat this guy any day of the week, so why not give him a good reason to come here for the match? I declared that I would retire if I couldn't beat him. But as you see, I'm still here and now *I'm* the champ.

Q: If Hennig had beaten you, though, your fans would have been crushed! I can't imagine Memphis



Jerry Lawler whips Curt Hennig across the ring on his way to winning the AWA World championship, the first world heavyweight title of his long and storied career.

wrestling—or wrestling in general—without Jerry Lawler.

A: Believe it or not, when I went to the arena that night, I had never been so confident in all my career. I felt no pressure and really had no fear. I thought that for once in my life I would get a fair shot at the title, and that's all I could ask for. If I was good enough, I would win. If I wasn't, then I didn't deserve to be a champion, and at least we'd all have a great big goodbye party. But Fargo is one of the fairest men I've ever known, and I knew that he was bright enough to spot those sneaky tricks Hennig is famous for. For a while, though, I really thought that Jackie would stop the match because of that nasty cut I had over my right eye. Thankfully, he realized the importance of the situation. If Hennig had ripped my arms and legs off, I *still* would have continued. Nothing could have stopped me on that night.

Q: Hennig claims his loss was a plot between you and AWA officials.

A: Oh, man, that's so laughable. I mean, he wanted Larry Hennig, one of the lowest creeps who ever wrestled, as the referee. What a joke! Remember, when Curt won the belt from Nick Bockwinkel last year, he hit him in the head with a roll of coins. As far as I'm concerned, he never should have been

the champion in the first place. I'll give him a rematch for the title, but there's so much going on right now that he's gonna have to wait for a while.

Q: I can see why. Right now, you've got contenders from the CWA, AWA, Continental, and World Class areas screaming for a chance at your title, and you've been busy flying around the country facing some of the toughest men in the sport. Is life as a champion what you expected?

A: Thank goodness for those frequent flyer bonuses! *(laughs)* Actually, I'd have to say that defending the title is a lot easier than winning it, but the way things have been going so far, I sure as hell never get bored! But I want the wrestling world to know that I'll go anywhere to defend my World title. You know, a big mistake a lot of these federations make is that the champions get pigeonholed into facing the same challengers in the same arenas all the time. Well, thankfully the AWA isn't that way anymore. They allow me to wrestle against anyone they deem a worthy contender, and I say bring 'em on. The variety of opponents helps keep me sharp. Not to mention sore.

Q: Speaking of worthy opponents, you've taken on everyone from Kerry Von Erich to Eddie Gilbert,

but Gilbert and Hennig are both crying that you're trying to avoid them. It looks like your wars with them are a long way from being over.

A: You bet. Gilbert, who I like to call "Cold Stuff," has no business in wrestling anymore. I've never seen anyone stoop to the low tactics he has, and I'm ashamed that I ever had anything to do to him. I figured that Curt would have learned his lesson when I cleanly pinned his shoulders to the mat, but some guys take longer than others to mature. These boys need a little of their own medicine. Once you administer that, they get scared and run away.

Q: Would you consider Gilbert to be your most hated opponent?

A: Far and away. He's the worst slime I've ever come up against. What makes it all so funny is that he's really not much of a wrestler. He's not big, not particularly powerful, and I've fought guys who were much better scientifically. But as far as pure evil goes, he's got to be the devil himself. He's done anything and everything he could think of to injure me, it seems. Plus, he's always got his no-good family, that sleazebag Missy Hyatt, and his idiot manager, Paul E. Dangerously, to bail him out when he gets into hot water. With odds like that against me, a match with Gilbert is

like taking on five people at once. But I don't care. I won't really be happy until I get him and Dangerously out of the business once and for all.

Q: Which leads me to an interesting question. You've taken a great deal of criticism—even from your own wife, Paula, in the October 1988 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*—for some of your own tactics. It's no secret that you used a foreign object to defeat Bill Dundee, and your throwing of fire has long been a subject of intense scrutiny, even if it has been in self-defense. How do you answer those charges?

A: Look at it this way, Bob. I've had severe burns on my face as a result of Gilbert burning me. I had to have my eyes cleansed for weeks because I got some kind of burning powder thrown in them. Paula sees how it affects me and my attitude around the house, but even she has to realize the nature of this business. She doesn't quite understand that I have to fight fire with fire, so to speak, and by now I've proven that I can sink to even those kinds of depths. It's not pretty, and I'm not proud of it. Paula worries about how all this will affect me in the long run. But think of it this way: if I *didn't* try to rid wrestling of these kinds of men, they'd rule the sport. I'd do anything to prevent that from happen-



“

When I get a little bit down I think about the good people of Memphis. They're the true reason for all my success.

”

ing, even if it creates some tension at home.

Q: You won't be able to prevent the other contenders from lining up at your door, though. According to promoters, you've got a full schedule coming up with Terry Taylor, Soldat Ustinov, Gilbert, Parsons, Von Erich, Teijho Kahn, and a lot of others. You've got your work cut out for you.

A: That's true, but that's the way I like it. You know, they've been calling me the "King" for a long time, but I never had the chance to really prove it. Now that I'm World champion, my job is to defeat all the contenders. It's been tough shuttling from Memphis to Las Vegas to Texas to Alabama and back again, but when I get a little bit down I think about the good people of Memphis. They're the true reason for all my success. Let Gilbert and Hennig chase all the money and power they want. I know what *really* counts. □



Lawler works over Eddie Gilbert on the timekeeper's table. The Lawler-Gilbert feud dates back several years, when Gilbert was an up-and-coming pro looking to prove himself.

Exclusive Preview And Analysis



Megapowers vs. Megabucks: HOGAN & SAVAGE TAKE ON ANDRE & DiBIASE!

THEIR WAR WAS left hanging on March 27 at WrestleMania IV. Now the time has come to settle matters—once and for all!

When we last left the Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage vs. Ted DiBiase and Andre the Giant feud, it was the closing moments of WrestleMania IV. Savage was in the ring celebrating with his manager, Elizabeth, and "The Hulkster" after defeating Ted DiBiase in the final round of the WWF World title tournament. Andre, who earlier in the day was disqualified against Hogan in their second-round match, was unable to save DiBiase when Hogan ran into the ring and slammed him across the back with a chair. Afterward, Andre and DiBiase could only watch the celebration and curse Savage's good fortune.

Shortly after WrestleMania IV, Hogan's wife Linda gave birth to the couple's first child. So, with no belt to defend for the first time in four years, Hogan took a well-deserved vacation from the sport. Andre, meanwhile, got involved in a feud with Hacksaw Duggan, giving Savage and DiBiase a chance to battle for the belt on their own.

But if absence makes the heart grow fonder, it also makes the feud grow stronger. Shortly before press time for this magazine, the editors of *Inside Wrestling* learned that Hogan and Savage would wrestle DiBiase and Andre—with Jesse Ventura as special guest referee—in the main event of an August 29 card at Madison Square Garden to be aired live nationwide on pay-per-view TV. It will be the Megapowers vs. the Megabucks in a match that is certain to make wrestling history.

In this special feature, *Inside Wrestling* provides an exclusive preview and analysis of how these hated rivals match up for this ultimate confrontation.

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

HOGAN & SAVAGE: Hogan is 6'8", 302 pounds of solid muscle; Savage checks in at a smaller, but still solid, 6'2", 245 pounds ... Hogan holds a huge edge in power and is able to overwhelm an opponent, while Savage relies more on his agility and aerial skills ... Although WWF World champion for four years, Hogan never demonstrated an ability to last in long matches while Savage often appears to get stronger as a match goes on ... Both men are extremely muscular, but Savage is the more streamlined of the two.

ANDRE & DiBIASE: Andre the Giant is a massive individual at 7'5", 497 pounds; DiBiase, by startling contrast, is 6'4", 247 pounds ... Neither man is very muscular, but DiBiase is clearly in better physical condition ... Andre's weight and size, along with an accumulation of ring injuries, have proven to be a liability as he has gotten older ... DiBiase is surprisingly agile with tremendous stamina; can go the distance with any man in wrestling ... Andre is slow and lumbering, but his immense size always poses a danger.

OVERALL ABILITY

HOGAN & SAVAGE: Hogan is a brawler; Savage is a scientific and aerial technician ... As demonstrated during his rulebreaking days, Savage can be particularly ruthless at times ... The "Macho Man" utilizes a devastating flying axhandle and possesses a thorough knowledge of scientific wrestling ... Hogan will bully an opponent before putting him away with a clothesline and a legdrop ... Since becoming a fan favorite, Savage has lost some of his killer instinct and tends to wrestle from behind ... Although an average wrestler, Hogan is virtually impossible to overpower.

ANDRE & DiBIASE: Andre is a brawler; DiBiase is a scientific maestro, one of the finest all-around wrestlers in the sport ... The present-day Andre relies on a bearhug and likes to choke his opponents ... Incredibly, the once-friendly Giant now has no respect for the rules ... Still, Andre is an extremely poor wrestler who depends entirely upon his bulk ... DiBiase's scientific artistry is overshadowed by his vast riches and an unnecessary reliance on his bodyguard Virgil; nevertheless, his recent series of matches against Savage clearly exhibited his ring excellence.



DiBiase slams Savage



Andre and Hogan battle with the chair

INTANGIBLES

HOGAN & SAVAGE: Insiders say that Rick Steamboat lost his drive and desire to wrestle after his wife gave birth. Will the same thing happen to Hogan? Has he discovered another part of life? This, plus rumors of a pending movie deal, could distract "The Hulkster" ... More than 20,000 screaming fans will lend the Megapowers emotional support ... Elizabeth's safety could be in danger during this match; that could distract Savage ... If not for Andre and DiBiase, Hogan would probably still have the belt. He knows this and wants to get revenge.

ANDRE & DiBIASE: The presence of Jesse Ventura as guest referee should help the Megabucks. Known as a rulebreaker's commentator, "The Body" is almost sure to be a rulebreaker's referee. The question is, how could the WWF allow this after the awful Earl/Dave Hebner ref situation that originally cost Hogan the title? ... Can Andre and DiBiase's drastically different styles mesh? Because of Andre's questionable physical condition, DiBiase may have to spend most of the match in the ring—against fresher opponents ... Virgil is a much more menacing physical presence at ring-side than Elizabeth.

OVERALL ANALYSIS

The Madison Square Garden wrestling ring has been the scene of some of the greatest battles in wrestling history, but this could top them all. Andre and DiBiase vs. Savage and Hogan takes the word "feud" one step further—into the realm of war.

Broken down individually, Hogan has already shown that he can handle Andre: He beat him at WrestleMania III and would have beaten him in their second meeting if not for the identical twin Hebner referees. Savage has held the upper hand in his title defenses against DiBiase. Hogan had a hard time with DiBiase in several pre-February 5 matches, and Savage has battled to disqualification losses against Andre in several recent bouts.

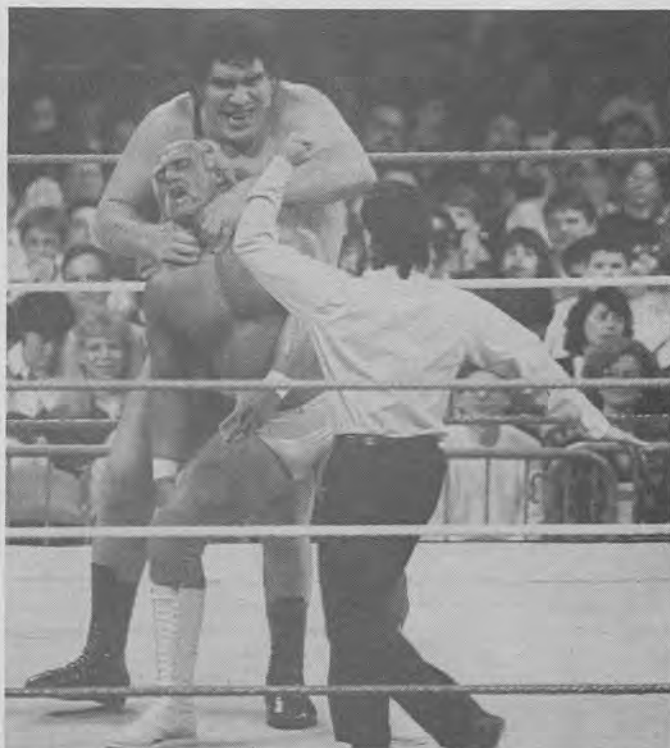
Tag team wrestling, however, is entirely different from singles competition, and is something all but DiBiase, a former Mid-South and UWF tag champ, have little experience in. DiBiase, however, might find himself on his own for most of the match while Hogan and Savage figure to tag frequently.

The difference could be Ventura. If he officiates fairly, the Megapowers have a good chance at embarrassing their archrivals before a national audience. But if Ventura is biased and Andre is able to contribute, the Megabucks can gain a measure of revenge for the events of WrestleMania IV.

Either way, it will be a war that will write a new page in wrestling history. □



Hogan whips DiBiase



Andre chokes Hogan

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The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

SIX MONTHS AGO, this column would have been unthinkable. Michael Hayes vs. Buddy Roberts? What happened to make these friends, two-thirds of The Fabulous Freebirds, become enemies so quickly?

The roots of the feud go back to a March 4 concert in Dallas featuring Hayes' Badstreet Band. Roberts was at the concert and took exception when Hayes dedicated the song, "My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys," to David Von Erich. Roberts was visibly displeased, but held his temper.

When Hayes invited Kevin and Kerry Von Erich—longtime enemies of The Freebirds—on stage to help with the vocals, Roberts could stay seated no longer. A violent attack followed during which several instruments, plus Hayes' involvement with his Freebird partners, were broken. Hayes needed medical assistance and was aided by the Von Erichs. Hayes' feud with the first family of wrestling was over.

Since then, Freebird Terry Gordy has also ended his hostilities toward the Von Erichs. Now Roberts stands alone, the final Freebird still pledged to rulebreaking. His feud with the Von Erichs continues, and his hatred for the ex-partners he feels betrayed him is intense. Although he receives the support of men like Iceman Parsons, Black Bart, and The Angel of Death, Roberts' obsession with Hayes and Gordy is a personal one.

This month, *Inside Wrestling* provides a rare inside look at the violence, the cruelty, the bitterness, and the lust

ONE ON ONE



"No one should ever call me a Freebird again, and I mean it. I'm glad I broke away from you. You astound me with your stupidity and lack of class."

—Michael Hayes

for revenge that powers this feud as Hayes and Roberts square off . . . "One on One."

BUDDY ROBERTS:

Man, this is *really* a big surprise! I never thought you'd have the guts to speak to me again after some of the crap you've pulled over the last few months. All I can say, brother, is that I can't believe that *any* Freebird would stoop low enough to team with the Von Erichs, but I guess that after all this time you just decided to sell out and join the establishment. Well, go ahead, brother. I don't even mind that "Bamm Bamm" followed you. As far as I'm concerned, The Freebirds are me and Iceman.

MICHAEL HAYES:

That's no skin off my back, Buddy. I've already said that no one should ever call me a Freebird again, and I mean it. I'm glad I broke away from you. You astound me with your stupidity and lack of class. What you did at my concert and what you did to Terry Gordy prove it. I'm glad Terry finally saw the light.

BR: Listen to you, P.S., you even *talk* like a Von Erich! Lack of class? When we were a team, brother, the only thing that mattered was kicking some butt and having a good time. But there was one thing we *always* agreed on: We might split up one day, and we did for a while, but we would *never* join the Von Erichs. Let me tell you this, Michael, *you're*

VON ONE



"One thing that's always set The 'Birds apart from all other teams: guts. I've got it, Iceman's [Parsons] got it, and you and 'Bamm Bamm' have lost it."

—Buddy Roberts

the one that stabbed *me* in the back! We were just mindin' our own business, then you had to go and dedicate a song to David Von Erich. That's no way for a Freebird to act, and you can't tell me otherwise.

MH: I won't deny it, Buddy. Everything you say is right. But I've changed, Buddy. I still love to kick butt and have a good time—that's Michael Hayes' trademark. But I've seen what these guys are made of, man. These Von Erichs have a hell of a lot of guts to go through what they've gone through. All we ever did was bust some heads. That's not what being a man is. That's what being a Freebird *was*! Show some guts, Buddy.

BR: You're makin' me cry, brother.

MH: Don't give me that crap, Buddy. Who the hell do you think you are? I spent a whole career saving your butt and *this* is the thanks I get? Go to hell, you scum!

BR: Now *that's* the Michael Hayes I've always known. It's good to see you haven't lost all your fire. That sentimental crap you've been dishing out is making me sick to my stomach, and that ain't easy, if you know what I mean. If there's one thing I know, it's that you can't teach an old dog new tricks, and you can't change Michael Hayes. Down deep, you'd like to plant a knee right into Kerry Von Erich's stomach. You know it and I know it.

MH: That's a load of bull, Buddy, and you know it. The Michael Hayes

you always knew *never* turned against a friend, and right now Kerry is a friend. That's right, you heard me, Buddy—a *friend*! He stood behind me and stands with me now against jerks like you. The hell with you, Buddy! Now the Von Erichs and "Bamm Bamm" and me'll make you pay once and for all.

BR: Speakin' of which, how *is* my buddy Terry? Now *there's* another sentimental backstabber for you. You know, you bleedin' hearts make me sick to my stomach. Gordy could've just cut off those ugly locks of yours, but he didn't have the guts to do it, and that's one thing that's always set the 'Birds apart from all other teams: guts. I've got it, Iceman's got it, and you and "Bamm Bamm" have lost it. That photo I saw with you holding a bottle of Jack Daniel's and Von Erich with the carton of milk really said it all.

MH: What did it say? Did it say that I've got the guts to stand by my friends? Did it show you that even a bar-hoppin', butt-kickin', woman-chasin' man like me can still give credit when it's due? I'm not sayin' I party with Kerry, but when I go into a ring I'm glad he's in there with me.

BR: That's what you think *now*, brother, but it won't last long. The problem with you is that you just don't remember the way it was and is. The Von Erichs don't have friends. They use people until they're finished with them, then they throw them away like yesterday's garbage. You won't be any different. People have said a lot of things about me, but at least I know the truth when I see it. I've never been disloyal to someone who's been loyal to me. That's the difference between me and the Von Erichs. I'm a man. They're no good scum.

MH: Buddy, you're no better. *You're* the backstabber! If it weren't for you, Gordy and I would still be Freebirds. But you drove us away with your "kill, kill, kill" attitude. Having a good time and chasin' women just wasn't good enough for you, I guess. Well, I hope you're happy now. As far as I'm concerned, The Fabulous Freebirds are dead. □

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 7)

can't beat that!

I would strongly suggest that your readers check out the local promotions in their area. They might be very happily surprised!

LARRY B. CHESTER
Thorofare, NJ

A CASE FOR THE CWA

I'm a really big fan of the CWA and I think it's time your readers got some more exposure to this fine wrestling promotion. First of all, did you know that some of today's top stars got their start in Memphis? I'm talking about guys like Hulk Hogan and The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

But the CWA doesn't merely live in the past. Today they have some of the brightest stars in all of wrestling. I'm talking about one wrestler in particular, though.

In the past two years this man has won the support of all the CWA fans and has held many belts (including



Jeff Jarrett dropkicks Jonathan Boyd from off the top rope. Jarrett is one of the finest young competitors in the sport today, according to Candi Rochelle.

one-half of the AWA Southern tag team title). I am talking about none other than Jeff Jarrett. I'm no expert, but I'd say from his past accomplishments that he has the potential to become one of the greatest wrestlers today.

Give him the credit he deserves!

CANDI ROCHELLE
Waverly, TN

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HAWKAMANIA

I believe I have finally found wrestling's most awesome competitor: Road Warrior Hawk. When I first saw The Road Warriors in 1983, I, like everyone else, was amazed by their strength, savagery, and invincibility. Unfortunately, I never differentiated between Animal and Hawk.

Since then, however, I have come to believe that Hawk is tougher, despite Animal's undeniable power. Everybody made such a big deal about how Steve Williams won the UWF title with a broken arm, but has anybody, including "Dr. Death," wrestled a scaffold

(Continued on page 50)

THIS MONTH IN...



THE **Wrestler**



THE FANTASTICS make a shocking declaration: "We will not share our fans with **THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS!**"



RICK RUDE trembles! There's more venom than ever as love's bite makes **JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS** a man again!

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O, Canada, take back **THE ROUGEAUS!**

. . . **DUSTY RHODES** made **BARRY WINDHAM**, now he'll break him! . . .

Come down or comeback? **CURT**

HENNIG seeks the CWF title . . .

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GARVIN . . . Introducing **CHRIS**

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HULK HOGAN is back! But is **RANDY SAVAGE'S** World belt beyond "The Hulkster's" reach?



DUSTY RHODES takes action and declares that he's going to form *his own* **FOUR HORSEMEN!**

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 48)



Road Warrior Hawk sends Ric Flair across the ring. Although reader Jonathan Gilmore has a lot of respect for men like Road Warrior Animal and Steve Williams, he thinks Hawk is unquestionably the toughest man in wrestling.

match with a broken leg, the way Hawk did against The Midnight Express?

Hawk was directly responsible for his team's victories last summer in the War Games bouts by twice forcing opponents' submissions. This year, after Animal was injured, Hawk took on the Powers of Pain virtually singlehandedly (while Paul Ellering was of some assistance, he could not begin to approach what Animal is capable of doing). Meanwhile, Hawk took on both Warlord and Barbarian—and won!

Finally, while Hawk maintains a truly sadistic edge, Animal seems merely belligerent. This means that opponents seem to fear getting into the ring with Hawk more than Animal. And while I have the utmost respect for Animal, and for guys like Steve Williams, I conclude that wrestling's toughest, most sadistic, and most awesome figure is Road Warrior Hawk.

JONATHAN GILMORE
 Madison, WI

STARS THAT REALLY SHINE

Many of us are often disillusioned into believing that in the sport of professional wrestling, only the new talents are capable of bringing notoriety to a federation. This is particularly true in the WWF, the land of hype and "superstars" such as Brutus Beefcake and The Honky Tonk Man.

Well, I'd like to draw your attention to two men who have more than shattered that myth: Don Muraco and Greg Valentine. Both men have been in wrestling for almost 18 years each. Most of those years have been spent in a federation where youth and showmanship overshadow experience and true mat ability.

Valentine has held the WWF World tag team title, as well as the Intercontinental belt; Muraco has won the I-C strap twice! And now, after countless numbers of feuds and many, many months as number-one contenders, these two are *still* wrestling at main-event caliber wherever they go.

So, Vince, you can take your barbers, your snakes, and your birds. It's the "Rocks" and the "Hammers" that bring realism to the word "superstar"!

KEN HEWSTEN
 Linden, NJ □

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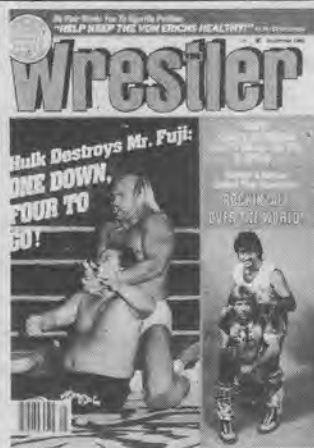
THE Wrestler

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January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.
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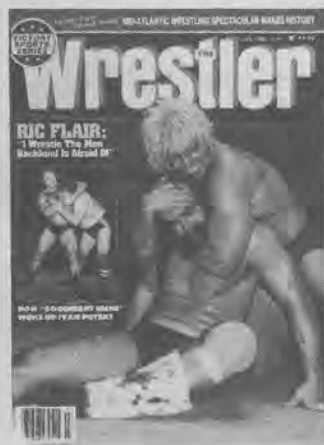
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August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.
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NOVEMBER 1985

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.
December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.
January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.
February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.
March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.
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May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.
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July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.
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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)



Hulk Hogan pummels Andre the Giant. A Hogan-Andre match scheduled in North Carolina, an NWA stronghold, signals a new chapter in the WWF/NWA promotional war.

for most of its shows at the Coliseum with about three sellouts a year.

"We've had some inquiries from the WWF before, but we didn't want to jeopardize our relationship with Jim Crockett Promotions," said Hobgood. "The NWA has always done extremely well here, we have a good relationship with them, and we couldn't give enough clearance between matches to make it comfortable for either group. But over the last year, the WWF has called several times to ask about the possibility of coming in. We talked with the Crockett people and agreed that we wouldn't book a WWF show 10 days before or 10 days after an NWA event."

The WWF is tentatively scheduled for one more date—Friday, October 28—in the Coliseum, but will have trouble running regular monthly cards without violating the 10-day clause.

"It's hard to say what would happen if the WWF drew very

good crowds," Hobgood said, "but because of our relationship with Crockett over the years, we'd be inclined to stay with them for a long time. They've made all indications that they want to stay with us. They've given us dates for the next six months. Crockett stayed with us through our hard times and we would stay with them."

"The WWF wanted to try and get in here and they were willing to take that [10-day] protection clause," Hobgood continued. "But it's safe to say that we will continue with Crockett. There's no way the WWF is ever going to replace them, but they will be able to come in here. We don't want to mess around with a sure thing like Crockett, but, of course, we're in business, too."

And, in business, loyalty does not always come first. The Coliseum is rented for events at a fee of \$3,500 or 12 percent of the gate receipts after taxes, whichever is the higher figure. If the WWF brings in more money than the NWA, it wouldn't make business sense for Coliseum management to stick with the NWA.

Whether the WWF *can* outdraw the NWA, however, remains to be seen. The WWF has traditionally been strong in the Northeast while the NWA does best in the Carolinas and Georgia. Although both federations have expanded nationally, their strengths remain the same. The WWF, for example, has trouble drawing at The Omni in Atlanta and reportedly gave away thousands of tickets to fill a TV taping in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The NWA also has more TV exposure in the Greensboro area. "Crockett has a number of TV wrestling shows in this market," Hobgood said. "I believe there's only one WWF show in this market, so there's not much exposure

(actually, the WWF airs two programs out of Greensboro). The fans are much more familiar with the Crockett wrestlers. They have a very loyal following in Greensboro."

But the WWF increased its ability to draw in Greensboro with the acquisitions over the past year of former NWA stars The Powers of Pain (Warlord and Barbarian), Terry Taylor, and Ted DiBiase. Fans in Greensboro are also familiar with Jake Roberts, Rick Rude, and Greg Valentine. And who isn't familiar with the Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan feud, the WWF's number-one gate attraction? For those who aren't, the WWF will inundate the Greensboro area with TV and print advertising to assure a success its first time in.

The WWF and NWA have already gone head-to-head in Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Boston, but in each case the NWA did the invading (and, in each city but New York, has done well). The WWF, however, obviously hopes to push the NWA out of this potentially lucrative market. A new 20,000-seat arena is scheduled to open in Charlotte this fall and you *know* the WWF would like to run cards there. If they're successful in Greensboro, there's no reason why they can't be successful in Charlotte.

WWF and NWA officials, by the way, won't comment on the situation. There have been indications that the NWA is not as willing to accept the WWF into the Greensboro Coliseum as Mr. Hobgood indicated.

When this issue of *Inside Wrestling* reaches your hands, the August 7 Greensboro card will be history. But the "Battle for Greensboro" will just be heating up. □

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July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.
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June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

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December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.
January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.
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March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
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November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.
December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.
March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.
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June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.
August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.
October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.
December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.
January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.
March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.
April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.
May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.
June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.
July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.
November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.
December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.
January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.
February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.
March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.
April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.
May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.
June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.
July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.
August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.
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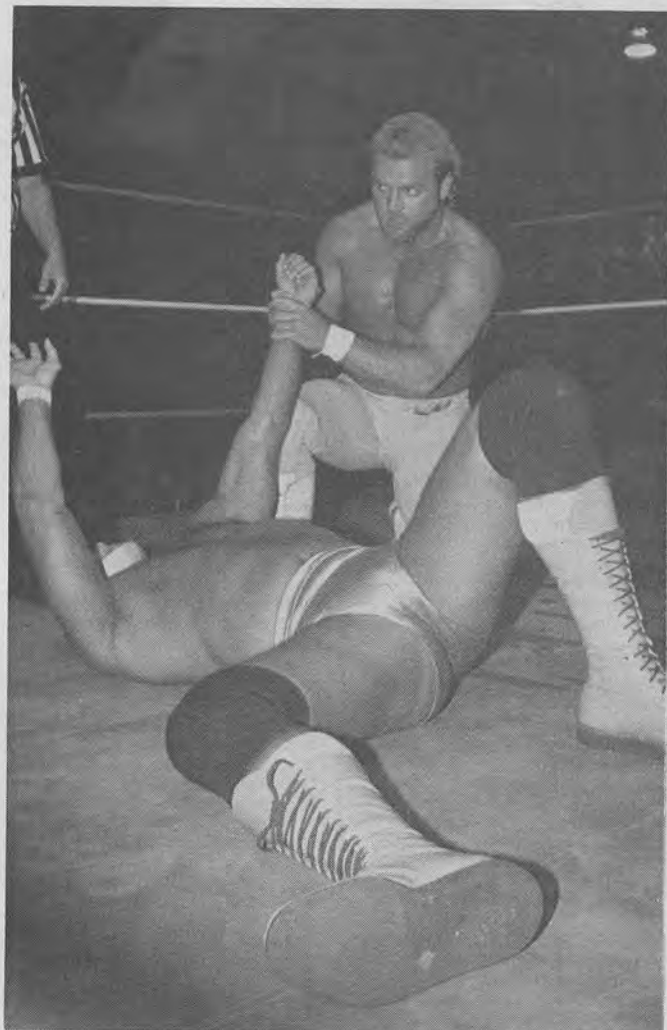
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EDDIE GILBERT

(Continued from page 33)



Gilbert armbars Olympia (above left) and gets armbarred himself by "Nightmare" Dan Davis (above right). Gilbert says he'll do whatever Dangerously thinks is best, even if it means jeopardizing his career.

they walked out the door.

The possessors of two of the biggest egos in wrestling, Gilbert and Dangerously make an unlikely pairing. It is amazing that these two aggressive personalities have been able to get along with each other and stay together for as long as they have—about two months as this magazine goes to press.

Two months is longer than anyone expected.

"They both insist on doing things their own way," says Austin Idol, an old teammate of Gilbert's who was once managed by Dangerously. "Disagree with them even a little bit and they go nuts. I can remember one time when I suggested to Paul that he adjust the schedule of sparring sessions for

Tommy Rich and me. It was just a harmless thing, but Paul didn't think so. He threw a fit like you wouldn't believe, said some crap about me having nothing to do with administration. You have to be very careful around him when it comes to things like that."

Idol certainly does have to be careful. Gilbert and Dangerously have tried to humiliate and injure their former partner because he turned down a \$100,000 offer to join the "Dangerous Alliance." They even tied Idol up and cut off some of his hair before he was saved by "Nightmare" Dan Davis and Mr. Olympia.

Dangerously's unbounded desire to obliterate all competition lead him to direct Gilbert to help the

devious "Nightmare" Ken Wayne battle his former partner Davis, and to join Gilbert in breaking Mr. Olympia's arm. At great personal risk, Gilbert remains a willing partner in Paul E's personal campaigns.

"Eddie won't admit it, but he's being overshadowed by Paul," Idol said. "Paul lured him in with big bucks, but he never had any intention of letting him share the power in the organization. That's how Dangerously operates. He squeezes everything he can out of a man and then drops him like a hot potato. I can't believe I ever trusted him."

Dangerously has also pursued Tommy Rich's services, and recently set up a match between Rich and Gilbert (who teamed as The

Fabulous Ones in Memphis in 1984) with the following stipulations: If Rich won, Dangerously would leave him alone for good; if Rich lost, he would become Gilbert's tag team partner, but the team wouldn't be managed by Dangerously. Paul would continue to manage Gilbert in singles matches, however. Dangerously felt that his management of Gilbert could eventually influence Rich to join his stable permanently.

During the match, Paul actually hollered advice to Rich. Dangerously says it was his intention to prove to Rich that he needed him as a manager. Gilbert says he understood Paul's position, so didn't object to his manager's opposing him; Dangerously had persuaded him that the match with Rich would be in their long-term best interests.

Not only did Gilbert take a thrashing from Rich, he was attacked by Dick Slater and Manny Fernandez afterward. Nevertheless, he insisted that Dangerously had done nothing wrong. "I understand his strategies. I'm not like Idol," Gilbert said. "I don't run and hide when things get hot."

Idol has rejected Dangerously's cash; so did Rich. But Gilbert has kept his pockets open. At this point, though, considering Paul's unorthodox management style, "Hot Stuff" must be having some doubts as to whether he should ever have joined the "Dangerous Alliance."

"Even when Eddie and I were partners back in '84," Rich said, "he always insisted upon being in control in every situation. He never liked to listen to what [manager] Jackie Fargo tried to tell him. That's why it's kind of odd that he's hooked up with Dangerously. I picture Eddie giving orders, not receiving them."

Has Gilbert's love of Dangerously's money caused him to surrender control of his life? Welcome to "The Danger Zone," Eddie. ☐

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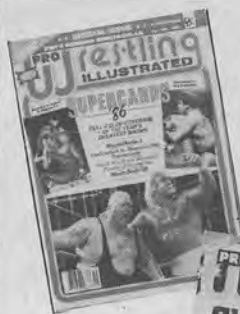
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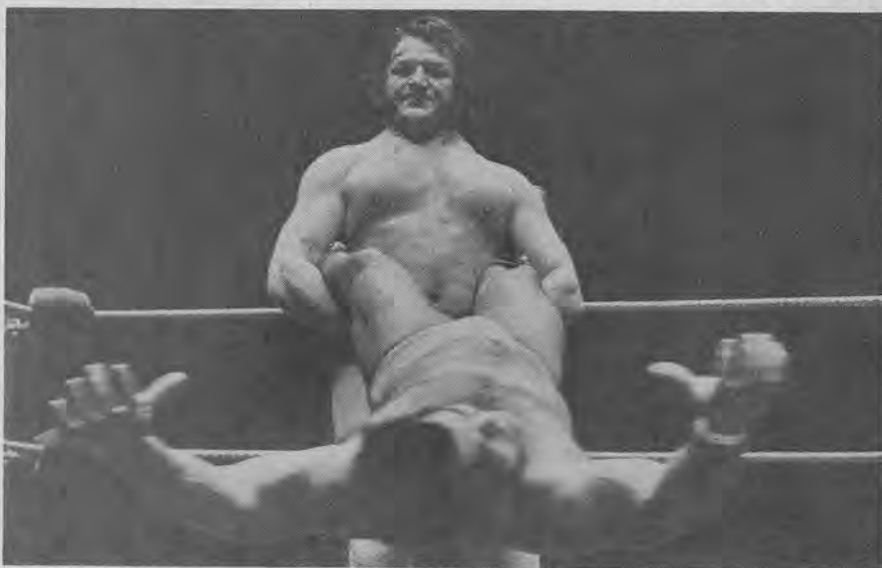
(Continued from page 16)

of swarming maggots, but if there's no question in your mind that Rhodes' defeat of Ric Flair, or Hulk Hogan's victory over Andre the Giant, stand alone, I encourage you to include them. You'll just have to convince me.

Which brings me to my next point. The greatest match of all time needn't involve a title change. It can describe the pivotal moment a talented youngster became a veteran, a subtle shift in a federation's power, a deft managerial decision, or the sad decline

crowd had swarmed over the ring in violent riot. It took 50 uniformed policemen to safely escort Jonathan back to the dressing room.

When the rematch was signed, rumors that a Jonathan victory would inspire another stampede of violence circulated in the daily papers. For Mitchell and me, a Jonathan victory was all but inevitable. We had already concluded, in the definitive manner of 13-year-olds, that Don Leo was the greatest wrestler to ever step through the ropes. Despite his giant size,



Jonathan spins Morales around the ring. Ellner remembers this match well because WWF champion Morales, not the better wrestler that night, gutted out a victory.

of a champion. It can epitomize the brutal nature of the sport or highlight an important rule change. Take, for example, the entry I would submit if I didn't already own a *PWI* T-shirt:

My friend Mitchell and I had it all planned. When Jonathan laid Morales down to the canvas, we would bolt from the Garden. Already we sat poised at the exit, ready to make a clean break at the least indication of trouble. For both of us, Don Leo Jonathan represented not only a threat to Pedro Morales' WWF title—he threatened our very lives. Last month, after Jonathan had hurled Morales into the fourth row of seats, the predominantly Hispanic

he moved like a cat, had a steel chin, and was impervious to pain. With Texas death match rules eliminating the possibility of disqualification, we saw little hope of Morales retaining his title. We just prayed we could avoid the destruction his supporters would reign upon the Garden in angry frustration.

Our worst fears were quickly realized. We overheard the violent threats of the rowdy band of teenagers that sat behind us.

The match was not yet two minutes old when Jonathan caught Morales in his deadly Mormon spin. For 30 seconds, the giant Canadian swung his smaller opponent in a circle around the

ring before throwing him contemptuously into the corner. The crowd implored Pedro to rise, but he could not. Jonathan followed his advantage with a rain of vicious forearms and punches. And then he applied the pin.

Mitchell and I bolted from our seats, no less fearful than if an air raid siren had been sounded. From the exit we waited for the bell... and waited. Where there should have been the stunned silence of fans mourning an ex-champion, we heard the gathering momentum of the crowd. We crawled back into our seats and watched an incredible event unfold. Morales, bloody, beaten, but obviously not bowed, had grabbed hold of Jonathan's head with his right hand, while his left was rolled into a deadly fist that battered the giant with earthshaking haymakers. Six, seven, 10 punches in a row Morales landed until Jonathan dropped to his knees. From the ropes, the champion hurled atop his challenger. This time the pin count went the distance. Mitchell and I celebrated feverishly, slapping-five with the teenagers in back...

Why was this the best match ever? It revealed the real nature of competition: Morales was beaten, yet he won. He was not as good as Jonathan, yet he triumphed. I came to recognize that day the unique chemistry of champions, how the heart and soul of a great competitor can overcome the greatest odds.

Now it's your turn. What will it be? Wendi Richter's defeat of Fabulous Moolah? Who will it involve? Stan Hansen? Mr. T? Buddy Rogers? Vince McMahon? Little Beaver? Let's have a little fun. Send your entries and T-shirt size to: MOMENT, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. Cutoff date for entries is September 15, 1988; winner to be announced in the January 1989 issue of this magazine. ☐

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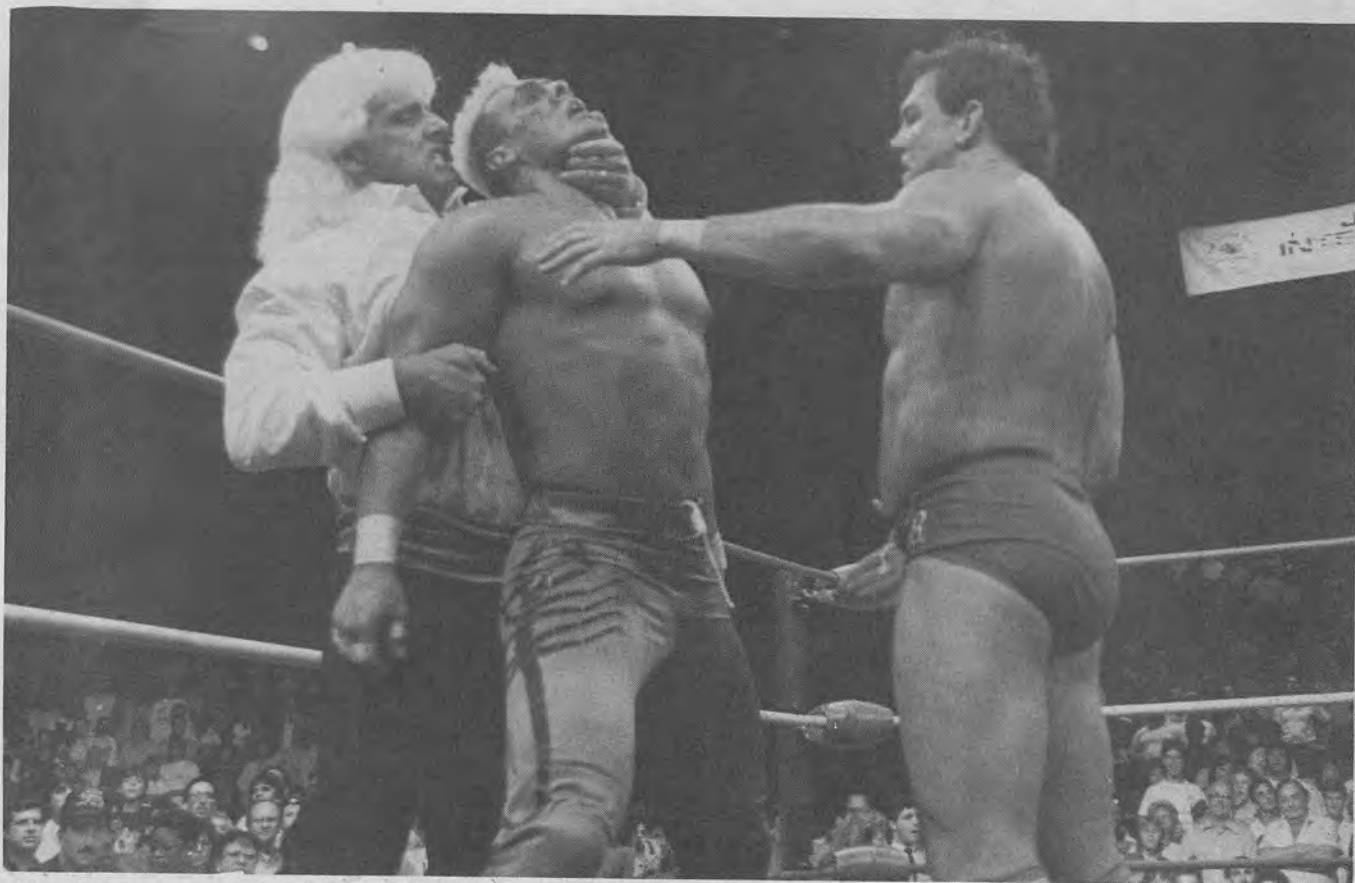
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THE FOUR HORSEMEN

(Continued from page 35)



Although he's not even scheduled to wrestle, Flair holds Sting for an attack from Blanchard (above). Catching the referee unaware, Dillon helps Flair make the cover on Ronnie Garvin (below). Before the advent of the Horsemen, Flair was respected as a champion who met all challengers. Unfortunately, that can't be said anymore.



what was written about him a few years back. An article from the Fall edition of *Wrestling 84* ("Ric Flair: The Courage Of A Champion") stated quite clearly what cannot be said of Flair today: "There is no man in the NWA able to complain about not getting a title shot." The

article goes on to detail Flair's exhaustive schedule for greatness: 20 title defenses a month were commonplace.

Today, Flair dodges opponents like a duck in a shooting gallery. If he's not avoiding title matches by engaging in tag team competition,

he's allowing Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson, and Barry Windham to act as barriers between himself and worthy contenders like Nikita Koloff, Dusty Rhodes, Steve Williams, Sting, and Lex Luger.

That's because *having* titles is all the Horsemen care about; the *integrity* of their title reigns is low on the list of Horsemen priorities. "When The Four Horsemen go out to party," Blanchard has often said, "we wear our title belts, not our won-lost records."

Go back a little further, to 1982 and an article in the November edition of *Inside Wrestling* entitled: "Ric Flair—Wrestling's Most Versatile Champion." The story detailed the intense workout routine that gave Flair the knowledge of "more different styles than anyone." He was as gifted against scientific stars as he was against rulebreakers. One close friend of Flair's was quoted as saying: "Most wrestlers live only for a title. Ric wants more; he wants to



Flair allows Arn Anderson to get in some licks on Garvin. "The Nature Boy" has been wrestling in more and more tag team matches at the expense of defending his title on a regular basis.

be the greatest, most complete wrestler who ever lived."

Ironically, Flair's same friend in that same *Inside Wrestling* article provided a sinister foreshadowing of Horseman attitudes to come:

"The championship is forcing Ric into giving up many things he'd like to try. He resents the many demands the championship makes. They say he likes to party and be rowdy; the title doesn't allow him to do that."

By surrounding himself with the Horsemen, Flair has found a way to reduce the number of demands the NWA title makes on him while following through on his desires to "party and be rowdy."

Flair, in spite of his rulebreaking, had long been admired for his drive and determination, but his fellow Horsemen have dragged him down in the eyes of the wrestling world.

And those very men who are to blame for his decline, who no doubt couldn't care less about his reputation and place in championship history, who reap bigger paychecks for the fact that their partner is NWA World champion, continue to laugh all the way to the bank. □

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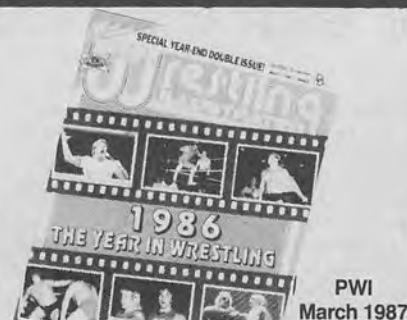
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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)



Taylor whips Chris Adams into the ropes. Taylor is set to abandon his long-running feud with his former friend Adams only because they'll be in different areas.

conference.

The giant "revelation" was the announcement that Nikita, following an upcoming "Just Say Nyet" anti-drug tour of America, would let his hair grow out, further proof of his Americanization. The reporters moaned in playful disgust, but the ploy served its purpose: Only two reporters attended the Taylor interview and they failed to file a story. Taylor was infuriated by the slight.

I should point out that I was one of the two reporters who attended Taylor's press conference. The reason I didn't file a story is because once Taylor saw the anemic turnout, he left the room in anger.

I hoped Taylor remembered that fact, and would have a soft spot in his heart for me that might translate into an exclusive interview today—particularly on the eve of what may potentially be a major move. The World Class Texas champ is reported to be on the verge of signing a multiyear,

megabuck contract with the WWF. Reliable sources inform me that all that is needed to cement the deal is Taylor's signature.

Will he sign or will he stay? I called him at home and reached his answering service.

"Please tell Terry Taylor that this is Liz Hunter and I would like to clear the air. Please tell him to return my call."

I returned to my desk and flipped through notes, not at all confident that I would hear from Taylor. Five minutes later the phone rang.

"What can I do for you, Liz?" It was Taylor.

"I thought you weren't granting interviews," I said playfully—too playfully, it turned out. I heard a strong click as Taylor smashed down the receiver. Before I could pinch myself, though, the phone rang again and Taylor was back on the line.

"Scare you?" he asked.

"I was hoping you'd call back," I said. "I wouldn't know how to

explain losing an exclusive interview because I was a smart aleck."

"I guess you heard about the WWF offer."

"I heard something." I wasn't about to volunteer anything. Let him do the talking.

"It's true." He mentioned a number that he made me swear I wouldn't reveal.

"So," I said, "what are you going to do? Will you stay in Texas and go after Kerry's crown? Stick around and defend your belt? Do you think you can handle the crazy WWF? Can you adjust to life in a big-city fishbowl?"

Taylor sighed. "It's good to talk to you, Liz," he said. "I haven't forgotten that you showed up to that press conference last year. I always appreciated that."

Was this man really a vicious rulebreaker? He sure sounded like the Taylor of old. But he wasn't. It didn't take but another minute to realize how much he'd changed.

"You weren't like the rest of that scummy press corps," he raged. "Or like Lawler and Dundee, the cheating, conniving dirtbags. I'm in *control*, Liz. Understand? I'm making the decisions these days. People come to me. They come groveling and *begging*. They come with check-books and cameras and autograph pads and meek looks on their sniveling faces.

"You know what I tell them? Know what I say? I tell 'em to get stuffed! Am I going to the WWF? Maybe I am, maybe I'm not. They sure offered me enough money. But I might tell 'em to take their money and shove it. Maybe I want a piece of Von Erich after all."

He calmed down. For 30 seconds, an uneasy hush settled over the line. "It's good to be back on top though, Lizzy," he finally said. "Man, is it ever so good to be back on top." ☐

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BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

(Continued from page 37)

wrestler's ultimate fantasy. Forget the belt; Beefcake wants some of those greased-back locks for his fetishistic collection.

Beefcake's ascendance as a fan favorite coincided directly with the adoption of his new persona. Fans like the barber. Ironically, as his stock as a fan favorite rose, Beefcake's value as a quality wrestler decreased. His skills dragged. It was as if each scalp sapped a bit of his own strength to the point where he became merely another sideshow attraction in the WWF circus.

It was about this time that Honky Tonk and his crew invaded the WWF's main tent. Sporting a guitar, a '50s-style haircut, a bobby-soxed squeeze named Peggy Sue, and an irreverent ring style, Honky Tonk shocked the wrestling world by defeating Rick Steamboat for the Intercontinental title on June 2, 1987. With his title reign approaching a record-shattering 14 months, Honky Tonk *still* lacks the credibility he feels entitled to.

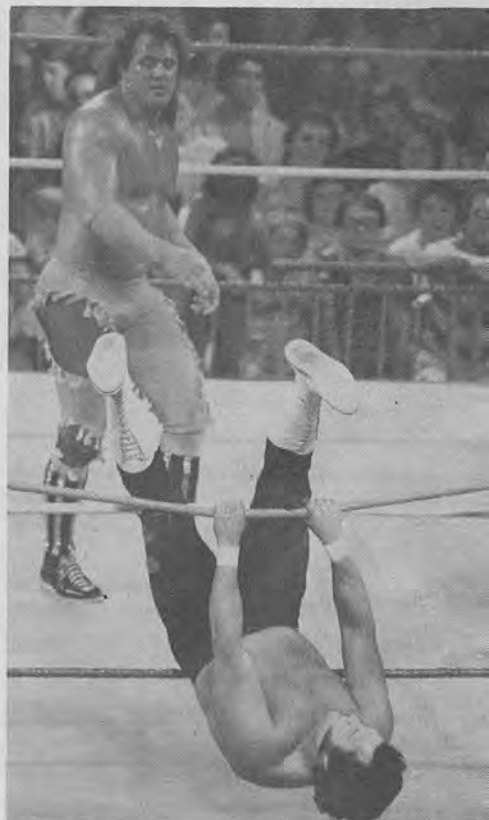
"Say what you will about him," says *Inside Wrestling* Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum, "but the man has done the job. Through hook or crook, Honky Tonk could soon be the longest reigning I-C champion in WWF history. That's a *major* achievement."

The emphasis on "major" is not an exaggeration when one considers the legion of top-rate wrestlers who have held the WWF's number-two title. Ken Patera, Randy Savage, Rick Steamboat, and Don Muraco head the list.

But it's a barely concealed fact that Honky Tonk and his management have their sights set on Randy Savage and the WWF World title. Privately, Honky Tonk has dismissed Beefcake as a way to kill time while he's waiting for contract negotiations between his people and Savage's people to begin. Still, Honky Tonk would like



Honky Tonk resists being whipped across the ring by Beefcake. Despite overwhelming fan support, Beefcake has not been able to wrest the Intercontinental belt from Honky Tonk.



Beefcake lets go, with an elbowsmash (above left); Honky Tonk makes a futile attempt to prevent himself from falling over the ropes (above right). "The Barber's" preoccupation with haircutting might be costing him a title.

nothing more than to drag Beefcake into his make-believe 1950s song-and-dance world and sock-hop him over the head with his guitar.

Which makes this the perfect opportunity for Beefcake to drop the barbering nonsense and reestablish his career and credibility.

"It would make a deep impression on promoters around the world if Beefcake could unseat Honky Tonk Man," said Senior Editor Bill Apter. "Beefcake is considered a cute novelty act, but people forget he's a fine wrestler if he puts his mind to it. With the Intercontinental title, he'd be as hot as he was when he and [Greg] Valentine wore the tag team belts. Probably hotter."

Despite such obvious motivation, Beefcake refuses to drop his frivolous hairstyling enterprise. In recent interviews, he remained determined to scalp Peggy Sue, Jimmy Hart, and anyone else remotely affiliated with Honky Tonk Man. No mention is made of match strategy. Little attention is paid to his opponent's strengths and weaknesses. Beefcake remains blinded by the light reflecting off his scissors.

"Beefcake is stooping to Honky Tonk's level," concludes Apter. "If he goes into the ring intent on scalping Honky Tonk, he's in for a long night. Honky Tonk and Jimmy Hart will make Beefcake's life miserable. He must concentrate on wrestling or else he'll be finished."

And what are the odds of that happening? Nobody really knows. Probably quite low, however, to hear Beefcake these days. Which is a shame. Beefcake could be a champion; instead, he's a buffoon. And what if he does snip Honky Tonk's hair? Then what?

Honky Tonk would still be Intercontinental champion. And Brutus the Barber will be left with scissors in his hand, grease on his fingers, and a lot of fans asking, "So what if ...?"

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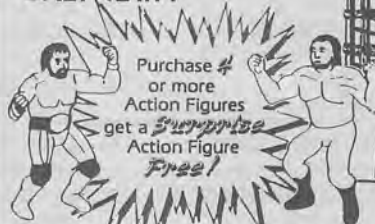
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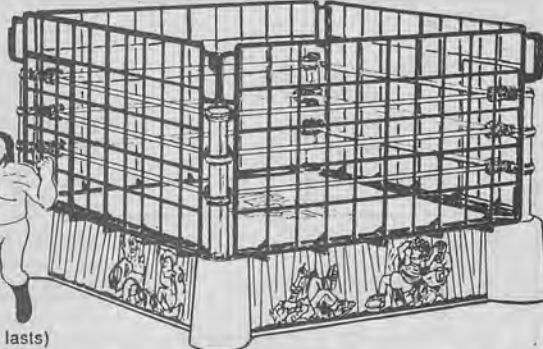
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CC Hacksaw Jim Dugan
DD "New" Tito Santana
EE Rick Martel

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FIGURE	AA	BB	CC	DD	EE	FF	GG	HH
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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN

- 4—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
- 5—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 6—**STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 7—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX

- 8—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 9—**THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 10—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 11—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

- 12—**MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 13—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 14—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 15—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY

NWA

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 3—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL

- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 5—**STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 6—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 7—**AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL

- 8—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 9—**MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 10—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 11—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL

- 12—**IVAN KOLOFF**
249, Moscow, Russia
- 13—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 14—**RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI
- 15—**RON SIMMONS**
260, Perry, GA

AWA

- 1—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 2—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN

- 4—**SOLDAT USTINOV**
265, Moscow, Russia
- 5—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
280, Midland, TX
- 6—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 7—**MAX PAIN**
350, Iowa City, IA

- 8—**JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 9—**MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
- 10—**TEIJO KHAN**
265, Singapore
- 11—**BARON VON RASCHKE**
271, Berlin, Germany

- 12—**AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 13—**ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 14—**RICKY RICE**
230, Edina, MN
- 15—**MANDO GUERRERO**
225, Mexico City, Mexico

WWF

- 1—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 2—**THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 3—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE

- 4—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 5—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 6—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
- 7—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN

- 8—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 10—**DON MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
- 11—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA

- 12—**BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 13—**BRET HART**
235, Calgary, Alberta
- 14—**KEN PATERA**
256, Portland, OR
- 15—**BIG BOSSMAN**
348, Louisville, KY

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 2—**STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL

- 4—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 5—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 6—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 7—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX

- 8—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 9—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
- 10—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
235, Denton, TX
- 11—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA

- 12—**AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 13—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 14—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 15—**DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN

MOST HATED

- 1—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 2—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 3—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN

- 4—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
- 5—**THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 6—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 7—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN

- 8—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—**ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 10—**MAKHAN SINGH**
380, Saginaw, MI
- 11—**AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL

- 12—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
- 13—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO
- 14—**ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
- 15—**KEN WAYNE**
208, Memphis, TN

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
NWA World tag team champions
- 2—**DEMOLITION**
WWF World tag team champions
- 3—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 4—**THE FANTASTICS**
U.S. tag team champions
- 5—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title

- 6—**PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
AWA World tag team champions
- 7—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag team title
- 8—**THE WARLORD & THE BARBARIAN**
No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag team title
- 9—**THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag team title
- 10—**JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY**
WCCW Texas & Wild West tag team champions

- 11—**THE RUSSIAN ASSASSIN & IVAN KOLOFF**
No. 2 contenders: NWA World tag team title
- 12—**BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN**
Stampede International tag team champions
- 13—**BILLY TRAVIS & SCOTT STEINER**
CWA tag team champions
- 14—**KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH**
No. 1 contenders: vacant WCCW tag team title
- 15—**STEVE WILLIAMS & NIKITA KOLOFF**
No. 3 contenders: NWA World tag team title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended June 30, 1988

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: JACK ARMSTRONG
(December 12, 1987; from Victor Rivera; Hawaiian Gardens, CA)

ALL-CALIFORNIA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

PETER MAIVIA JR. & PROFESSOR TANAKA
(February 26, 1988; from The Mercenaries; Universal City, CA)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TOSHIKI KAMADA & SAMPSON FUYUKI
(March 9, 1988; from Takashi Ishikawa & Mighty Inoue; Yokohama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA
(April 14, 1988; from Bruiser Brody; Sendai, Japan)

* **ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**

JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU
(June 10, 1988; from The Road Warriors; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI
(January 3, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPION: CHIGUSA NAGOYO
(October 20, 1987; from Yukari Omori; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: YUMI OGURA
(January 29, 1988; from Bull Nakano; Nagoya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BULL NAKANO & KUMIKO IWAMOTO
(February 25, 1988; tournament final over Yumiko Hotta & Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Kawasaki, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: GENICHIRO TENRYU
(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)

AWA TV CHAMPION: GREG GAGNE

(December 27, 1987; tournament final over Adrian Adonis; Las Vegas, NV)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MADUSA MICELI
(December 27, 1987; tournament final over Candi Divine; Las Vegas, NV)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER
(May 9, 1988; from Curt Hennig; Memphis, TN)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND
(March 19, 1988; from The Midnight Rockers; Las Vegas, NV)

* **BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: JOHNNY SMITH**
(June 24, 1988; from Chris Benoit; Calgary, Alberta)

CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: D.J. PETERSON
(December 25, 1987; from Bulldog Bob Brown; St. Joseph, MO)

CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Rick Patterson & Steve Ray)

CENTRAL STATES TV CHAMPION: MASA CHONO
(January 1, 1988; from Mike George; Des Moines, IA)

CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DETROIT DEMOLITION & D.J. BOB CARTER
(May 29, 1988; from The Nightmares; Birmingham, AL)

CONTINENTAL U.S. JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KEN WAYNE
(March 9, 1988; from Larry Hamilton; Hattiesburg, MS)

* **CWA CHAMPION: MAX PAIN**
(June 27, 1988; from Brickhouse Brown; Memphis, TN)

* **CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SCOTT STEINER & BILLY TRAVIS**
(June 27, 1988; from Gary Young & Don Bass; Memphis, TN)

FLORIDA CHAMPION: MIKE ROTUNDO
(April 18, 1987; from Oliver Humperdink; Lakeland, FL)

* **IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI**
(June 24, 1988; over Riki Choshu; Osaka, Japan)

* **IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MASSA SAITO & RIKI CHOSHU**
(June 10, 1988; from Tatsumi Fujinami & Kengo Kimura; Hiroshima, Japan)

* **IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHIRO KOSHINAKA**
(June 24, 1988; from Owen Hart; Osaka, Japan)

NWA JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NELSON ROYAL
(October 16, 1987; by NWA decision)

NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Warlord, Barbarian, & Ivan Koloff)

NWA TV CHAMPION: MIKE ROTUNDO
(January 26, 1988; from Nikita Koloff; Raleigh, NC)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR
(November 26, 1987; from Ronnie Garvin; Chicago, IL)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON
(April 20, 1988; from Lex Luger & Barry Windham; Jacksonville, FL)

NATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: D.C. DRAKE
(March 20, 1988; from Larry Winters; Forked River, NJ)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: THE GRAPPLER
(October 31, 1987; from Mike Miller; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE DOLL & SCOTT PETERSON
(May 7, 1988; from Mike Golden & The Avalanche; Portland, OR)

PWF CHAMPION: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(March 9, 1988; from Stan Hansen; Yokohama, Japan)

* **PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU**
(June 4, 1988; from Genichiro Tenryu & Ashura Hara; Sapporo, Japan)

* **SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS ADAMS**
(June 25, 1988; tournament final over Buck Robley; Columbus, GA)

STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: MAKHAN SINGH
(May 6, 1988; from Owen Hart; Calgary, Alberta)

STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN
(November 13, 1987; from Makhan Singh & Jerry Morrow; Calgary, Alberta)

U.S. CHAMPION: BARRY WINDHAM
(May 13, 1988; tournament final over Nikita Koloff; Houston, TX)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE FANTASTICS
(April 26, 1988; from The Midnight Express; Chattanooga, TN)

* **U.S.A. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE MONGOLIAN STOMPER**
(June 24, 1988; from the Bullet; Knoxville, TN)

* **U.S.A. TENNESSEE CHAMPION: BUDDY LANDELL**
(June 18, 1988; from Wendell Cooley; Knoxville, TN)

WESTERN STATES CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSKO
(January 24, 1988; from Barry Windham; Uniondale, NY)

WILD WEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY
(May 8, 1988; from Steve Simpson & Terry Gordy; Irving, TX)

WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KERRY VON ERICH
(May 8, 1988; from Iceman Parsons; Irving, TX)

WORLD CLASS JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY
(December 25, 1987; from Shaun Simpson; Dallas, TX)

WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS:

TERRY GORDY, BUDDY ROBERTS, & ICEMAN PARSONS
(January 4, 1988; from Matt Borne, Steve Simpson, & Chris Adams; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP
(most recently held by Kerry & Kevin Von Erich)

WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: TERRY TAYLOR
(February 26, 1988; from Matt Borne; Dallas, TX)

WORLD CLASS TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY
(April 8, 1988; from Steve & Shaun Simpson; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD ORGANIZATION CHAMPION: MR. ITO
(April 18, 1988; tournament final over Hacksaw Higgins; Mobile, AL)

WORLD PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUPERFLY TUI
(April 11, 1987; from Super Machine I; Honolulu, HI)

WORLD PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MIGHTY MILO & TEU
(May 17, 1988; from Farmer Boy Ipo & Leroy Brown; Honolulu, HI)

WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: MIKE GEORGE
(March 17, 1988; from Masa Chono; Kansas City, KS)

* **WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: TNT**
(June 18, 1988; from Hercules Ayala; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

* **WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BOBBY JAGGERS & DAN KROFFAT**
(June 11, 1988; from Chris & Mark Youngblood; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE INVADER
(April 23, 1988; from Toriy Falk; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
(January 30, 1988; from Miguel Perez Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: SUPER BLACK NINJA
(May 14, 1988; from Miguel Perez Jr.; Carolina, Puerto Rico)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS & MARK YOUNGBLOOD
(May 21, 1988; from Kendo Nagasaki & Mr. Pogo; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON
(April 9, 1988; from Hercules Ayala; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER
(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE HONKY TONK MAN
(June 2, 1987; from Rick Steamboat; Buffalo, NY)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE
(March 27, 1988; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Atlantic City, NJ)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION
(March 27, 1988; from Rick Martel & Tito Santana; Atlantic City, NJ)

WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SHERRI MARTEL
(July 24, 1987; from The Fabulous Moolah; Houston, TX)

* **WWF WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN**
(June 8, 1988; from The Jumping Bomb Angels; Omiya City, Japan)

Blast From The Past ***This Month In Wrestling History***

"THE BIRTH OF HULKAMANIA"



HULK HOGAN
Born August 11, 1953

When little Terry Bollea was born, little did anyone realize that this handsome young boy would grow up to be Hulk Hogan, the most popular wrestler of his era. Hogan, the former WWF World champion, recently returned to the ring after an extended hiatus. During that time, his wife, Linda, gave birth to Brooke, the Hogans' own little Hulkamaniac, on May 9, 1988.

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